

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024

Daily Evening Newspaper



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BRIEFLY

Terrorist associate held along with arms, ammunition in Sopore

SRINAGAR, May 29 (Agencies): Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested one terrorist associate along with arms and ammunition in Reban Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

A top police officer told Srinagar based news agency Kashmir Scroll that a joint team of police, and army during cordon and search operation arrested one Over Ground Worker.

From their possession one pistol, pistol magazine, 7 pistol rounds were recovered, he said.

Meanwhile further investigation has been taken up in this regard.

Five arrested over scuffle between two groups in Jammu

JAMMU, May 29 (Agencies): Three people were injured in a scuffle between two groups in the outskirts of Jammu city on Wednesday, officials said.

Five people, including a woman, were arrested in connection with the case, they said.

The scuffle occurred when some persons allegedly attacked a former sarpanch and his relatives, leading to a clash in the Deoli area of Bishnah, they said.

The injured have been treated with first-aid and are reported to be in stable condition.

A case was registered against the five accused and further investigation is going on, police said.

Police cracks theft case in Baramulla; 1 held

BARAMULLA, May 29 (Agencies): Police on Wednesday solved a theft case by arresting one accused person and recovering stolen property from him in J&K's Baramulla.

Police said they received a written application from Shakeel Ahmad Parry, a resident of Garkote Uri, stating that during the intervening night of April 22, some unknown thieves entered his house and took away cash and gold items.

On receipt of this complaint, a case FIR under relevant sections of the law was registered at Police Station Uri, and the investigation was taken up. During the course of the investigation, many suspects were picked up, and during questioning, one

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5 persons fall into well in Kupwara; 2 dead, 3 hospitalised

SRINAGAR, May 29 (Agencies): Tragedy struck Kralpora village in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday as two persons died after falling into a well. Three others have been rescued and hospitalised.

An official told news agency GNS that during cleaning a well in Satboin Dardpora, five persons fell unconscious due to suffocation.

"As the news spread, a rescue operation was

launched at the site," the official said, adding, "After strenuous efforts, the persons were taken out of the water source and shifted to a nearby hospital, where the doctors declared two among the five as brought dead."

Identifying the deceased as Farid Ahmad Khoja & Bashir Ahmad Khoja, the official further said that Safer Ahmad, Qasim ud Din and Abdul Hameed are undergoing treatment.

"PDP pays for speaking truth to power", Mehbooba on FIR lodged against her

SRINAGAR, May 29 (Agencies): Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti Wednesday "amused" over FIR filed against her for apparently flouting Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for protesting and blocking main road at Bijbehara Anantnag against detention of party workers on May 25.

She said PDP is paying price for speaking truth to power.

Taking to micro-blogging site X (formerly



Twitter), Mehbooba Mufti said: "Amusing to find an FIR filed against me for apparently flouting MCC. This is the price PDP has paid for speaking truth to power. Our protest was against GOI in cahoots

with local administration for detaining hundreds of PDP polling agents & workers in the hours leading upto voting. Still not satisfied the same administration went onto launch Cordon & Search Operations in traditional PDP stronghold areas to terrorise our voters and prevent them from exercising their right to vote. Ulta chor kotwal ko daante".

Earlier police in an FIR stated that "It is bringing to your kind notice that on

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17 points identified for urgent repairs along Jammu-Srinagar National highway

BANIHAL/JAMMU, May 29 (Agencies): At least 17 vulnerable points have been identified for urgent repairs along the strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway to ensure smooth flow of traffic, with focus on the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, a senior official said on Wednesday. A high-level team of officers on Tuesday inspected the 270-km national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, to identify the bottlenecks hampering traffic movement amid the ongoing four-laning project.

"The main purpose behind the visit was to inspect the vulnerable points (along the 56-km stretch) between Nashri to Banihal, which needs urgent repairs ahead of the yatra," Deputy Commissioner Ramban Basaer-ul-Haq Choudhary said.

The inspection team, which included the local police, deputy inspector general (DIG), traffic police and senior officers

of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), also took stock of the traffic arrangements in Banihal town and intake capacity of 'yatri niwas' at Lamber. The 52-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas is scheduled to start on June 29 and conclude on August 19.

"At least 17 critical spots have been identified between Nashri and Banihal for urgent repairs, while it was also decided to macadamize the Banihal market road. The work will be completed within a week followed by a dry run so that the pilgrims, tourists and commuters have a smooth journey," the deputy commissioner said.

A majority of the four-lane construction work that started in 2016 on the highway has been completed but there are still some tunnels, bypasses and flyovers, especially in the Ramban district, where the work is in progress.

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Police in Baramulla install GPS tracking device on bailed out LeT terror associate

BARAMULLA, May 29 (Agencies): In compliance with an order received from the court, police in Baramulla affixed a GPS tracking device on an under-trial terror associate who was enlarged on bail in a UA(P) case of Police Station Uri.

The accused was arrested in case FIR No 104/2023 under sections 13, 18, 18B, 20, 23, 40

UA(P) Act, 120 B IPC, 7/25 Arms Act of Police Station Uri, and has been enlarged bail by the court.

The GPS ankle will be used to monitor the movement of the said terror associate and ensure that he doesn't violate the bail conditions.

Earlier, J-K's Kupwara Police used GPS tracker anklets to monitor the

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Use of animals to draw vehicles, carry load restricted during afternoons

JAMMU, May 29 (Agencies): Jammu District Magistrate has restricted the use of animals to draw any vehicle or carrying any load between 12 noon to 3 pm citing the ongoing high temperatures in the region, which may cause injuries or deaths of the animals.

"Whereas, it has been



reported that there are

instances where certain people are using animals including buffalo, bullock, pony, mule, donkey, and camel, among others for carrying loads during the daytime (the period between 12 noon and 03:00 PM) amidst high day temperature (exceeding 37 degree C), resulting

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Teacher terminated for unauthorised absence from duty

GANDERBAL, May 29 (Agencies): The Jammu and Kashmir Government has terminated a teacher posted at Boys High School Harran in Ganderbal District for his unauthorised absence from the duty since September 2019.

Forest fire incidents on rise in rajouri forest division this summer, 8 incidents reported so far, says official

RAJOURI, May 29 (Agencies): Incidents of forest fire in the areas in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri Forest Division have been on the rise this summer season compared to last year, says an official.

According to Balwant Singh, Assistant Director, Forest Protection Force,

Rajouri, 8 incidents of forest fire have been reported to date from the area.

"This time, the number of forest fire incidents reported is more than those reported in the same period in the last year. Summer season is at its peak and hence we are seeing such forest

fires. To date, 8 incidents have taken place," Balwant Singh said.

He said that the department has established fire control rooms at different locations in the area to ensure accessibility.

"Our staff reach the site timely. We have made fire control rooms at different

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BSF opens fire on suspected Pak Drone near LoC in Poonch

POONCH, May 29 (Agencies): The Border Security Force personnel fired several rounds to shoot down a suspected Pakistani drone near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch, officials said on Wednesday.

The drone activity from across the border was



picked up by the alert border guards in Khanetar garrison at around

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Army denies scuffle with cops in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, May 29 (Agencies): The Army on Wednesday rebutted allegations that its soldiers had beaten up some policemen in Jammu & Kashmir's Kupwara district.

An Army statement said, "An altercation between police and Army personnel and beating up therein of police personnel are misfounded and incorrect. Minor differences between the police personnel and a territorial army unit on an operational matter have been amicably resolved."

Officials earlier in the day said that a team of soldiers accompanied by an officer had barged into the Kupwara police station and beat up four policemen, including two SPOs and two constables.

The officials also said that the four injured policemen were later admitted to Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura in Srinagar city for specialised treatment.

Officials had alleged that the raid of a police team at the house of a Territorial Army soldier had angered the Army after which they barged into the police station.

Doctors at SKIMS hospital have said the injured policemen are stable, officials added.

MBA MOTORS

MERCEDES - BMW - AUDI

DEALS IN SALE, PURCHASE, REPAIRING AND SERVICING OF USED CARS AND ORIGINAL SPARE PARTS

NAGROTA, JAMMU (J&K) +91-9086207123

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Kanya Lal Mugloo** S/o Lt Dina Nath Mugloo R/o Battyar Alikadal, Srinagar. At Present H. No 29 Sec 8 Extn EWS Colony Lower Roop Nagar Jammu. **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held on 31st May 2024 at 9:00 AM at Muthi Ghat (Near Director School Education).
GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt Rajni Mugloo- Wife
Mrs Priya & Mr Ashish - Daughter in Law & Son
Mr Abhishek Mugloo- Son
Mugloo, Dhar's, Kakroo, Saroop, Bhat, Rawal, Tickoo, Peshin
MOBILE NO: 9818885606, 9797685578



SH. KANYA LAL MUGLOO

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Bal Krishan Choudhary** R/o Shiv Nagar Ward No.11 Udhampur who departed for heavenly abode on 21st May 2024.
TENTH DAY SATSANG/ PRAYER MEETING will be performed on 30th of May 2024 (Thursday) at Rewalt the Banquet Hall MH Road Udhampur from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm.
Kriya will be performed on 2nd June 2024 (Sunday) at our residence Ward no 11, Shivnagar, Udhampur.
GRIEF STRICKEN :-
Kunli Devi (Wife)
Sons & Daughters in Law
Sh. Najinder Choudhary (Pappu) & Smt Sushma
Sh. Joginder Choudhary & Smt Ruby
Sh. Rajinder Choudhary & Smt Reva
Daughters & Sons in Law
Smt. Santosh & Sh. Amar Singh
Smt. Sudesh & Sh. Tikak Raj
Smt. Swami & Sh. Rashpal Singh
Smt. Anita & Sh. Swam Singh
Smt. Prabha & Sh. Ramesh
Mob No: 99522622633, 7006299350, 7006793995



Sh. Bal Krishan Choudhary

TENTH DAY

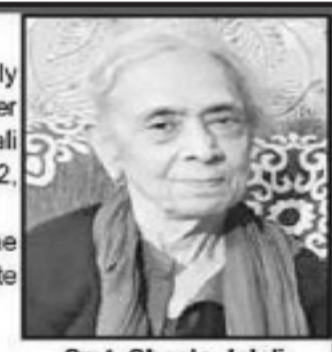
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **SH ASHOK GUPTA** R/O WARD NO 1 HOUSE NO 65 R S PURA.
TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 30TH OF MAY AT 10 AM TO 11 AM AT DEVI DWARA MANDIR R S PURA.
GRIEF STRICKEN
SMT TRIPATI GUPTA (WIFE)
BROTHER AND SISTER IN LAW
SH SERVE MITTER GUPTA & SMT PRIMA GUPTA
LT. SH SUBASHCHANDER GUPTA & SMT RAJ RANI
SH RAVI GUPTA & SMT SUSHMA GUPTA
SHASHWANI GUPTA & SMT ARCHANA GUPTA
DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW
SMT MANSI & SH VIKAS GUPTA
SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW
GAGAN & PALAK
ANMOL & PRARTHANA
M/S JAI AMBEY TRADERS R. S. PURA
9797215100, 9796647047



SH ASHOK GUPTA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we painfully inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Sheela Jalali** W/o Late Sh. Raj Nath Jalali of Rainawari, Srinagar, presently at 25/2, Bhawani Nagar Gole Pulii Talab Tillo Jammu. **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 1st June 2024 (Saturday) at Muthi Ghat (Near Directorate Office). Assembly will be at 8:30 am.
Grief Stricken
Sushil Jalali & Rajni Jalali - Son & Daughter-in-law
Sushma Talwar W/o Late Devinder Talwar - Daughter
Navneeta Jalali - Daughter
Nitin Jalali, Nipul Jalali - Grand Children
Ishan Talwar & Vinyeti Talwar - Grand Children
Mob: 9796011893, 9796813125



Smt. Sheela Jalali

SHADMOS & MASVAR

Six months have passed since you left us for heavenly abode, but not a single day & night passed without remembering you. We miss you a lot, your love and blessings shall remain with us & will guide us in future.
We all pray to Almighty for your Moksha in Vaikunth.
SHADMOS & MASVAR of our beloved mother **Smt Raj Kishori Trisal**, W/o Late Moli Lal Trisal formerly from Dadi Kada, Tanki Pora Srinagar Kashmir will be performed at our residence, Flat No. 407 A, Panchkula Heights Peerussallia Sec 5 Zikpur Distt Mohali (Punjab) 160104 Chandigarh, on 30th May & 31st May 2024.
Deeply Missed & Remembered by Son & Daughter in law
Mr Santosh Trisal & Mrs Nimla Trisal
Daughter in law
Mrs Mahalaxmi Trisal W/o Late A.K. Trisal
Daughters & Sons in law
Mrs Nirmal Dhar & Mr B L Dhar
Mrs Usha Pandita & Mr R L Pandita
Mr Rahul Selvam (Grand Son)
SMASTH TRISAL PARIVAR & KAK PARIVAR
Mobile No. 9417246038, 9145646107



Smt Raj Kishori Trisal

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Mohanji Dhar** S/o Late Niranjan Nath Dhar on 21st May at 9:09 PM R/o 96/2 Shiv Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu.
10th Day Kriya will be held at Muthi Ghat on 30th May Thursday at 9 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sanjay Dhar & Sunita Dhar
Anju Koul & Ajhoy Koul
Sunil Dhar & Kiran Dhar
Dr Vinod Dhar & Sushama Dhar
Vipin Dhar & Usha Dhar
Ankit Dhar & Anmol Dhar
Meenakshi Arora & Sanjay Arora
Shama Koul, Nishant Koul & Neetu Ambardar
Saproos & Bhats
Abhimanyu Kaul, Adeetya Kaul, Smriti Dhar, Abhinav Dhar, Siddharth Dhar
Contacts - 9971143552(Sunil), 9796854871(Anju)



Sh. Mohanji Dhar

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

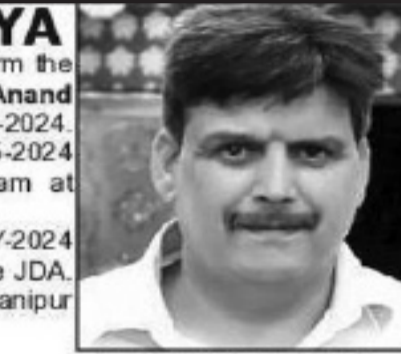
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. P. P. Sharma, I.F.S (Retd.)** Ex. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, J&K on 21.05.2024.
Tenth Day will be performed on 30.05.24 (Thursday) at our residence House No. 41, Sector No. 9, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu at 10 am.
Kriya will be performed at our residence on 31.05.24 (Friday) at 12 Noon.
IN GRIEF:-
Daughter-in-Law & Son
Dr. Usha & Sh. Atul Sharma JKPS
Daughter & Son-in-law
Mrs. Anshuja & Mr. Yasser Tak, Advocates
41/9, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu
Sharma's, Raina's, Patyar's, Tak's, Sheron's, Dhar's
Mobile: 9419187286, 9086087286, 9419195331, 9419195866



Sh. P. P. Sharma I.F.S (Retd.)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

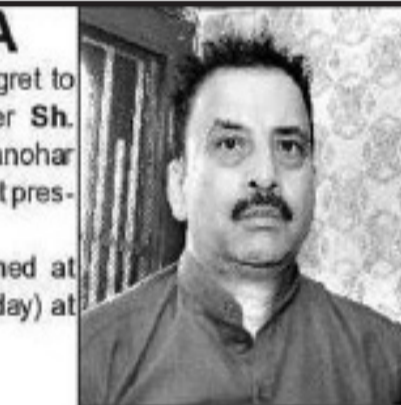
With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our **Sh. Pawan Kumar Anand** who left us for heavenly abode on 19-05-2024.
10TH DAY will be performed on 28-05-2024 (Tuesday) from 10:30 am to 11:30 am at TRIMURTI TEMPLE Janipur.
KRIYA will be performed on 31-MAY-2024 (Friday) at 12:00 Noon at our residence JDA, QTR 52 near last matador stop; Janipur Housing Colony Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
SMT. SAMTRI DEVI (MOTHER)
SMT. KANCHAN ANAND (WIFE)
MR. PRANAV ANAND (SON)
DAUGHTERS AND SONS IN LAW
MRS. NIDHI GUPTA & MR. ABHISHEK GUPTA
MRS. SUNDHI GUPTA & MR. NITIN GUPTA
SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN LAW
SMT. RAMA NANDA & SH. ROMESH CHANDER NANDA
SMT. POOJA SETHI & SH. SURESH SETHI.
GRAND SONS: MASTER, DAVIK GUPTA & MASTER SAHAY GUPTA.
MOBILE NUMBER: 7096181465, 9018908729, 9797635450, 9596787160, 9419102809.



LATE SH. PAWAN KUMAR ANAND

10TH DAY KRIYA

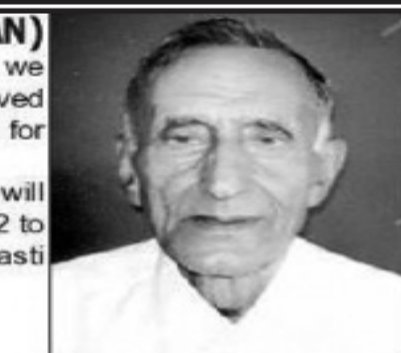
With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our Father **Sh. Mahraj Krishen Tickoo** S/o Late Manohar Lal Tickoo originally resident of Mattan at present Vinayak Vihar, Paloura, Jammu.
The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat on 3rd of June, 2024 (Monday) at 8:00 am.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sahil Tickoo & Kajal Tickoo
Daughter & Son-in-law
Sapna & Sahil Sapolia
M.No.: 8825010828, 9796267034



Sh. Mahraj Krishen Tickoo

EIGHTH DAY (ASTHI VISARJAN)

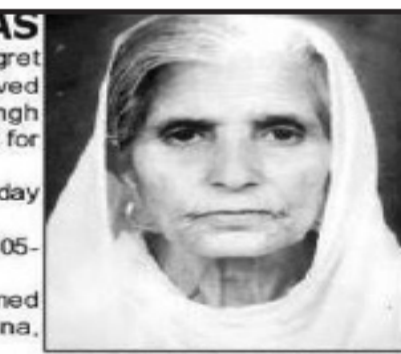
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Shiv Ram Sharma** who left for heavenly abode on 24-05-2024.
The Eighth Day (Asthi Visarjan) will be performed on 31-05-2024 from 2 to 4:00 P.M. at our residence Nai basti Ward No. 6 R.S. Pura Jammu.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Son & Daughter-in-law
Deep Sharma & Shashi Kala
Daughters & Son-in-law
Sudarshan Sharma & Kuldip Sudan
Satya Sharma & Naresh Khajuria
Sunita Sharma & Mela Ram
Motia Sharma & Subash Sharma
Jyoti Sharma & Rajesh Sharma
Grand Children: Aakanksha, Antriksh & Aakarshan
Shapes Furniture R. S. Pura
Tripple A Furniture Upper Gadigarh Jammu



SH. SHIV RAM SHARMA

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sdn. Amrit Kour** W/o Late S. Kartar Singh Manocha R/o Domana, Jammu who left for heavenly abode on 24-05-2024.
Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib on Tuesday 28-05-2024 at 9 A.M. (at our Residence)
Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib Ji on 30-05-2024 at 9:30 A.M. (at our Residence)
Kirtan and Antim Ardas will be performed at Gurudwara Arjun Dev Ji, Domana, Jammu from 10:00 to 12:00 Noon.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Late S. Jaender Singh (Rocky) & Ranneek Kour
Anurdeep Singh & Gurleen Kour -Grand Children
Daughters & Sons-in-Law
Davinder Kour & Joginder Singh Arora
Swarnjeet Kour & Ranjeet Singh - Sunderbani
Ravinder Kour & Bajjeet Singh Arora (PDD)
Paramjeet Kour & Prihpal Singh (Sarpanch Gol Gujral)
ROCKY KARYANA STORE - DOMANA
MANOCHA FAMILY
MOBILE NO: 8716837043, 9797370430



SDN. AMRIT KOUR

TENTH DAY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **MS. ANEETA PAJNOO** D/O LATE ML PAJNOO ON 26 MAY 2024 (SUNDAY). **TENTH DAY** WILL BE PERFORMED ON 4TH JUNE 2024 (TUESDAY) AT MUTHI GHAT 8:30 AM.
IN GRIEF:
BROTHER AND SISTER IN LAW
NARESH AND SUJATA PAJNOO
SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW
ABHISHEK PAJNOO & PRIYANKA BHASIN
DAUGHTER AND SON IN LAW
DR ANUSHIKA AND RISHABH GOEL.
CONTACT- 9419203699, 7006896983



MS. ANEETA PAJNOO

CHOUBARSI

"Four years have elapsed since you left us for heavenly abode & your memories will always remain in our heart".
CHOUBARSI of beloved Son **Mr Gourav Sumbria** S/o Vijay Lakshmi will be performed on 30th May 2024 (Thursday) at 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at our residence at Udhampur.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Vijay Lakshmi- Mother
Meenakshi Sumbria -Sister
CONTACT NO: 9419104029, 7006983272.



MR GOURAV SUMBRIA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother, **Smt. Krishna Koul** W/o Sh. Kanaya Lal Koul, residing at 83/4, Krishna Nagar, Sardarjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110029.
TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Sunday, 02 June 2024 at Haridwar.
IN GRIEF:
Husband
Kanaya Lal Koul
Son
Ravi Kumar Koul
Daughter-in-law
Suman Koul
Daughter
Reeta Raina
Son-in-law
Rajender Raina
Daughter
Bharti Bhan
Smt. Krishna Koul
Son-in-law
Sanjay Bhan
Daughter
Vansha Koul
Son-in-law
Divyanshu Koul and grand children.
Contact:
9873424185
9811404185



Smt. Krishna Koul

TENTH DAY, KRIYA AND UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI

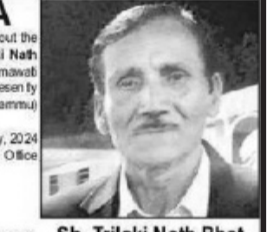
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Prithvi Raj Magotra** S/o Late Sh. Bawa Ditta Magotra R/o 40-B, Vaidhnavi Enclave, Sector 7 Extension, Channi Himmat, Jammu.
10TH DAY will be performed at our residence on 29th May 2024 (Wednesday) at 10 AM.
KRIYA shall be performed at our residence on 30th May 2024 (Thursday) at 12:30 PM.
UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI will be performed at our residence on 3rd June (Monday) from 5 PM to 6 PM.
GRIEF STRICKEN
WIFE
Smt Anjana Magotra
Sons
Kumar Gourav Magotra
Kumar Sourabh Magotra
Rishabh Magotra
Contact: 9419205621, 9419690995, 9797446607, 8899581111



Sh Prithvi Raj Magotra

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With heavy heart and saddened times, we inform you about the untimely and sudden demise of our beloved **Sh. Triloki Nath Bhat (Bhairaj)** S/O Lt. Nand Lal Bhat and Lt. Smt. Soomwanti Bhat (originally having been Videsi Army/Kashmiri) present by residing at H.No. 194, Sec-1st, Vinayak Nagar, Muthi Jammu on 22nd of May, 2024.
The Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on the 31st of May, 2024 (Friday) at Muthi Ghat (Annoor road) near Directorate Office Jammu at 8:30 am.
DEEPLY MOURNED BY
Smt. Roopwasi Bhat (Aunt)
Smt. Saria Bhat (Wife)
Sh. Devraj Lal Bhat and Smt. Prana Bhat (Brother and Bhabhi) (Sister and Brother in Law)
Lt. Smt. Rani Pandita and Sh. Omkar Nath Pandita
Smt. Roha Bhat and Lt. Sh. Jawahar Lal Bhat
Smt. Jaya Pandita and Sh. MK Pandita
Smt. Kausari Rana and Sh. Ramesh Kumar Rana
Lt. Smt. Jashika Pandita and Sh. Bhavraj Bhanu Pandita (Daughter and Son in Law)
Mrs. Punjima Bhat and Mr. Sanjay Bhat (Daughter and Son in Law)
Mr. Ashwani Bhat and Vaadhana Bhat (Son and Daughter in Law)
Mr. Arvind Bhat and Sandhya Bhat (Son and Daughter in Law)
Grand Children: Ashik, Apsh, Tinni
Samant Bhat Parivar of Vessu
Mob: 982514206, 971990301, 856670442



Sh. Triloki Nath Bhat (Bhairaj)

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI

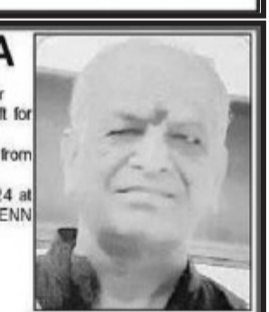
With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our **Sh. Ajit Singh** R/o H.No. 226, Lane 16/2 Faridabad, Sector 3 Subhash Nagar, Jammu who left us for heavenly abode on 20-05-2024.
10th Day will be performed on 29-05-2024 (Wednesday) from 10:00 A.M. at our residence.
Kriya will be performed on 1 June 2024 (Saturday) at our residence.
Rasam Pagri will be performed on 3 June 2024 (Monday) at 1:30 PM at our residence.
GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh. Kalyan Singh - Brother
Smt. Pila Devi - Bhabhi
Sanjay Singh - Son
Reema - Daughter-in-law
Bhoom - Grand Daughter
Savita - Grand Daughter
Aditya Paripat Singh - Grand Son
Daughter and Son-in-law
Sushma Devi and Ashok Singh
Rachna Devi and Suresh Singh
Anju Devi and Nitin Jamwal
Contact No. 9419185235, 9713066060, 7096332366



SH. AJIT SINGH

KRIYA & UTHALA

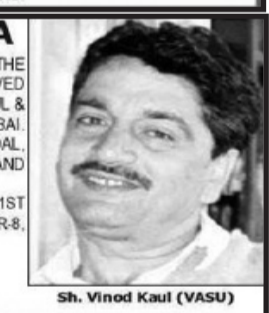
You live in our hearts and thoughts forever
Our dearest **Shri Anun Kumar Sharma** left for heavenly abode on May 27, 2024.
Kriya will be held on Thursday, 6th June 2024 from 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM at our residence.
Uthala will be held on Friday, 7th June, 2024 at Gurudwara Tali Sahib, Talab Tillo, Near BEE ENN Hospital from 11 AM to 2 PM.
IN GRIEF
Smt. Shashi Sharma - Wife
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Shalja & Sanjeev
Tanika & Mohit Lav
Grand Children
Mayan, Hridhaan, Manya
Mobile: 9622685808, 9469050401, 9796819443



Shri Anun Kumar Sharma

10TH DAY/KRIYA

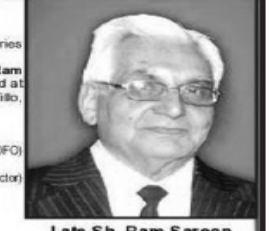
WITH PROFOUND GRIEF, WE INFORM THE UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. VINOD KAUL (VASU)**, S/O SH. PN. KAUL & LATE SMT. MOHINI KAUL, AT MUMBAI, PREVIOUSLY RESIDENT OF HABBA KADAL, SRINAGAR, PRESENTLY AT H.NO. 81/2 ANAND NAGAR, BOCHRI JAMMU.
THE TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE HELD ON 31ST MAY 2024 AT SHARDA SADAN, SECTOR-8, KHARJOUR, NARI KUMBHAI AT 10:00 AM.
GRIEF STRICKEN:
FATHER: SH. PUSHKAR NATH KAUL
WIFE: SMT. YIM KAUL
CHILDREN: CHASHUJI KAUL, KARAN KAUL
UNCLES AND AUNTIES: SH. J. L. KAUL & SMT. KRISHNA KAUL, SH. ASHOK KAUL & SMT. GIRJA KAUL
BROTHERS & BHABHIS: MR. VIKRAM KAUL, MR. SANJAY KAUL, MR. SANJAY KAUL & SMT. ANURADHA KAUL
SISTERS AND JUAJI
MRS. NEELAM KAUL & MR. HARJI KRISHAN KAUL
MRS. SHEELI KAUL & MR. NISHANT KAUL, MS. SHEETAL KAUL
NEPHEW & NECES: EKA, DARSH, BISHI, HA
SAMASTH KAUL AND TICKOO PARIVAR
IN GRIEF: KAUL'S, CHARAGI'S, WALLI'S, MUKOO'S
CONTACT: 8491894028, 9086313612, 7708837043, 6066503255



Sh. Vinod Kaul (VASU)

CHOUBARSI

Time never stops and life goes on but your memories remain alive in our thoughts forever.
Choubarsi of our beloved Father **Late Sh. Ram Saroop Makhntra (Retd. DCF)** will be performed at our residence (H.No. 49, Pateldi Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu) on 31st May, 2024 12 Noon onwards.
DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-
Daughters-in-law & Sons
Smt. Vinod (Retd. DCF) & Sh. Vidya Ratan Makhntra (Retd. DCF)
Smt. Padmapa Makhntra & Ctd. Vidya Sagar Makhntra
Smt. Jema Sharma & Sh. Neeta Bhawanee Makhntra (Aca. Director)
Smt. Raju Sharma & Sh. Vidya Bhawanee Makhntra
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Jyoti & Sh. Ashok Sharma (Retd. Em)
Sisters-in-law & Brothers
Smt. Sush & Sh. Jashveer Makhntra (Retd. DSP)
Smt. Usha & Sh. Ramesh Makhntra (Retd. Bank Manager)
Smt. Usha & Late Ctd. Hardeo Makhntra
Smt. Topi & Sh. Rajender Makhntra
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Divya (Retd. Lect) & Dr. B. D. Sharma
Grand Children: Sandeep Khurana, Eegv Vihari Khurana, Radika Khurana, Vikas Khurana, Aksh Khurana, Pooja Makhntra, Dr. Milan, Dr. Neha, Dr. Akanksha, Dr. Anag, Anamika Sharma, Dr. Sweptal Sharma, Eegv Aditya Makhntra, Eegv Akshay Makhntra, Dr. Divya Sharma, Sandeep, Nityam
Great Grand Children: Ashwari, Tapoo, Abhinavson, Koushar, Sandika, Haya, Gauri, Reyansh
Contact No: 941939474, 9419149768, 7932655765, 9419999953



Late Sh. Ram Saroop Makhntra (Retd. DCF)

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Bar Association, Panchkula & Aryans College, Rajpura organizes a seminar on Cyber Security



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: "Cyber security- Against Women & Child" was discussed in a seminar jointly organized by Aryans College of Law, Rajpura, near Chandigarh & Bar Association,

Panchkula. Adv Jagpal Singh, President Dist. Bar Association graced the occasion as special guest. Dr. Shipra Gupta, Faculty Punjab University, Chandigarh was the keynote speaker. Adv Amit Singla, Ex President Dist. Bar Association,

Adv Aman Dutt Sharma, General Secretary, Adv Nisha, Joint secretary was also present.

Shipra Gupta mentioned that an unfortunate number of women are becoming victims of cybercrimes. It is said crimes against women

marked a steady rise since 2019. According to a recent study more women are known to use the Internet to enrich their relationships compared to men. Young women, those 18-24, experience certain severe types of harassment at dispropor-

tionately high levels: 26 percent of these young women have been stalked online, and 25% were the target of online sexual harassment.

She added that the rate of cybercrime against women started to increase at this time since most women were using social media sites and one or more online platforms for academic, professional, and entertainment purposes.

She gave few basic tips including: Don't share passwords., Don't add people with locked profile in social media., Don't leave your webcam connected, don't meet online acquaintances alone, be careful about posting details about you, disable geotagging in your camera, update all operating systems on you devices, Know and understand the privacy policy etc.

Chandi Mata Bhajan released



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: Chandi Mata Bhajan (Chal Bhagta Mindhal Dhare...) sung by singer Kavita Dutt was released today at the Press Club Jammu.

Prof. D. S. Manhas, President ASDCSS Doda, J&K who is the Director of the album informed that the Bhajan was written by Satish Kumar Dogra on 'Chandi Mata Mindhal Yatra'.

The Yatra starts from Chandi Mata temple

Blasu Doda from June 1 every year in which holy mace (Chhari Mubarak) is taken by Maa Upasak Pyaar Singh. The music has been composed by RB Studio Jammu, and video shot by Director Shashi Thakur and his team. The Bhajan is beautifully sung by Singer Kavita Dutt in her melodious voice.

On the occasion Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President BJP (J&K) was Chief Guest & Sonu Manhas President BJP (Ward No.13, Jammu) was Guest of

Honour.

Both of them appreciated the singer and the team. Famous Ghazal singer Dharmesh Narogotra, special guest graced the occasion.

Ajay Sethi, Prem Singh, Ravinder Singh and Shrikant (ASDCSS members), thanked the team for such beautiful composition and extended best wishes for future endeavours.

Others present were Yash Dutt, Shashi Thakur, Meetal Manhas and Rahul Bhardwaj.

Annual Mindhal Yatra commencing from June 1

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: The Aadi Shakti Devi Chandike Sevak Sanstha (ASDCSS) announced the commencement of the annual Holy Chhari Yatra (Mindhal Yatra) from the Maa Chandi Temple in Blassu, Doda on June 1, 2024.

Prof. D S Manhas, President of ASDCSS, shared detailed information about the yatra during a press conference.

The Chhari Mubarik, carried by Mata Chandi Sevak Pyar Singh and accompanied by thousands of devotees, will begin its sacred journey. Departure from Maa Chandi Temple, Blassu, Doda on 1st June 2024, with a night stay at Gouri Shankar Temple, Kisht-

war, he said adding that on 2nd June 2024, the Yatra will have a night stay at Maha Kali Temple, Sohla, Padder, and will arrive at Mindhal, Pangi, HP on 3rd June 2024.

The Mindhal Mela, including Havan Pooja, Bhaaderwahi Kud, and Jagran, will be held on 4th June 2024 at Maa Chandi Darbar Mindhal.

The return journey will commence on 5th June 2024, with a night stay at Gouri Shankar Temple, Kishtwar, and the Chhari Mubarik will return to Blassu, Doda on 6th June 2024.

To ensure a smooth and safe journey, ASDCSS has coordinated with Maa Chandi Sevaks from various regions including Udhampur, Prem Nagar, Thathri, Kishtwar, Galhar, Kundal, Sohla, Bhellsa,

Tyari, Lujh, Killar, and Mindhal, as well as the district administrations of Doda and Kishtwar in J&K, and Chamba in HP.

Devotees are encouraged to participate in the yatra to seek the blessings of Shri Chandi Mata.

Participants are advised to bring essential items such as warm clothes, blankets, torches, plates, and glasses. Langar/Bhandara services will be provided starting from 1st June at Mindhal Darbar, Tyari Padder, Sohla Padder, and Prem Nagar Doda for the convenience of all devotees.

The press conference was attended by notable figures including Prem Singh, Sh Ajay Sethi, Sh Ravinder Singh, Sh Kartar Singh, Shrikant, Satish Kumar, and Ram Raj.

Dogri Cultural Club of MIET Inaugurated

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: To promote and celebrate the rich heritage of the Dogri language and Dogra culture, students at Model Institute of Engineering and Technology formed and inaugurated Dogri Cultural Club within its premises. Its inaugural function showcased the rich Dogri cultural heritage by its traditional performances, mesmerizing dances, melodious songs, Dogri poetry and miscellaneous activities, all by the students of 2nd semester in the college.

Prof. Ankur Gupta, Director MIET congratulated the energetic members of the club and assured them of all the help from the college side. He said this club will help the students showcase their cultural heritage and celebrate



the events periodically. Prof. Sahil Sawhney, Senior General Manager, who initiated the idea of the club provided digital support in its formation and bringing the students together.

Janvi Sharma, student of 2nd semester and head of the club coordinated all the activities. Along with her were Jaskaran, Ritika, Sidhima, Saksham and Daksh, all from 2nd semester who

were able to manage and showcase various forms of the Dogra culture.

Dance performance on the song Jagrana was mesmerizing and kept the audience spell bound. One could see the passion with which all of them danced. Aditya choreographed the dance in a professional way.

Girls and boys in Dogri attire looked really very charming. A few with

Dogri Saffa gave the function a traditional look.

History of Dogras was given by Pallavi. Mithali sang a very melodious Dogri song Nai kar moiyi maili akhiyan, kal pardesiyan aayee puja. Complete audience got spell bound. Other Dogri song, on guitar, was sung by a group of students, all bearing Dogri saffa. It was so melodious that it took the audience with them who started swaying with the song as well as started singing with the main singers.

Kartik and Kavisha did the befitting and flawless comparing. Other students who participated include Akshit, Raghunandan, Manya, Daksh, Astitva, Harshdeep and Nitish.

Prof SK Sharma, MIET Director to Chairman MIER was the Chief Guest for the function. In her address he congratulated the members for forming this club and desired that all the colleges in Jammu province would take a cue from MIET and form such type of clubs in their own colleges where they can enjoy their cultural heritage.

Arushi Sharma, faculty in charge, guided the students at each step whereas Rohin Sawhney and Pummy Sharma associated themselves from the very beginning and arranged all the help from the college side.

Senior faculty members were present during the function including Prof Dev Anand, Distinguished Professor, Ashwani Padha, Controller of Examinations, Dr. Parul Sharma, Dr. Komila Aggarwal, Bhanu Pratap Singh Samyal, Abhijit Singh and Bhanu Pratap Singh Jamwal.

Khatana expresses concern over increasing forest fire incidents

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has said that increasing forest fire incidents in Jammu and Kashmir is a matter of grave concern.

Khatana was interacting with a group of deputations of tribal people at his official residence wherein the deputation members raised the issues concerning their livelihood and made a special mention about the forest fires.

"Not only animals and plants survive due to forests but a good number of people belonging to tribal communities also drive their livelihood by grazing their life stock and cattle in these forests," Khatana

said. He said that there is a very old relation between the tribal Gujjars-Bakewerwals and forests and both are interdependent on one another for very many things.

"The concerned Forest and Wildlife Department should take serious steps to prevent forest fires as many important and rare species of animals and plants are lost in these forests," the BJP leader said.

Khatana said that the life stock and other cattle with tribal people graze dry grass and fallen leaves in forests which reduces chances of forest fires.

"Preventing these people from grazing their cattle in forests means playing a role in burning

forests," the Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) said.

He also said that the tribals also need to take special care of forests and update the forest guards on incidents of even minor forests to prevent the same from becoming massive blaze.

"The concerned Forest Department should also increase its vigil and press more forest guards into service to avoid forest fires," Khatana maintained adding: "The Fire and Emergency Service Department should also remain alert and in ready to act position to press its men into service immediately on getting information about such forest fires so that the green gold can be saved at all costs."

Nursing staff, resident doctors' confrontation: GMC Jammu constitutes committee

JAMMU, May 29 (Agencies): Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu has constituted a committee headed by chairman disciplinary committee to look into the matter of alleged confrontation between nursing staff and resident doctors working in the emergency section.

"The GMC administration has taken the incident seriously and has constituted a committee headed by the Chairman disciplinary committee who will look into the matter and has been asked to submit the report as soon as possible," a GMC spokesperson said.

"The GMC administration has addressed both

the parties i.e., nursing or paramedical staff and the resident doctors and assured them that an impartial enquiry will be conducted and appropriate action will be taken against those found guilty," the spokesperson said.

Both the parties were assured that justice and a safe working environment would be provided to one and all.

"At the same time, it was stressed that it's the duty of the whole medical and nursing fraternity to trust the system and maintain mutual harmony. Following it, both the parties called off their agitation," the spokesperson said.

3-day course on "Investigation of Traffic Accident Cases" concludes

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 29: A three-day course on "Investigation of Traffic Accident Cases" concluded at the Sheri-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA). Nineteen officers from various wings and units of the Jammu and Kashmir Police participated in this training program.

The course was designed to cover essential topics such as types and definitions of road accidents, traffic control devices, road signs, road markings, speed breakers, and traffic signals. It also included discussions on aiding traffic management, forensic investigation technologies (such as tyre impressions and skid marks), handling physical evidence in traffic accident cases, legislation related to traffic accidents, understanding road traffic violations, basics of traffic engineering, causes and consequences of road traffic crashes, and the latest gadgets used by traffic police, including demonstrations of e-challan machines, breath analyzers, and speed radar guns.

Eminent guest faculty from various institutes, along with experienced instructors from the Academy, were invited to share their knowledge and expertise with the participants.

Govt promotes 11 ED Cadre Officerst to Joint Director rank

NEW DELHI, May 29 (Agencies): The Centre has promoted 11 Enforcement Directorate cadre officers to the rank of joint director (JD) in the federal anti-money laundering agency.

This is the first time that so many cadre officers have been promoted in one go to the JD level, an important position vis-a-vis investigations, official sources said.

Cadre officers have been appointed to the JD post in the past but at one or two positions only, the sources said.

The department of revenue under the Union Finance Ministry issued an order Tuesday for promoting 11 officers from the deputy director to the JD rank.

A JD rank position is the cutting-edge

administrative post in the ED that is entrusted to supervise investigations related to money laundering and foreign exchange contravention.

The agency has more than 30 JD posts, including at 27 zonal offices across the country. At present, there are only three ED cadre officers in the JD rank while the rest are occupied by the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers who join the organisation on deputation.

The ED is a federal probe agency and is tasked to investigate financial crimes under three laws— the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA).

Tawi Trekkers J&K organizes trek from Mantalai to Naina Devi temple

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: Continuing its momentum towards conduct of series of one day treks, Tawi Trekkers J&K, one of the most active trekking clubs in the country, organized a reconnaissance trek from Mantalai to Naina Devi temple. The group of 14 trekkers was led by a senior member Sushil Singh and included Advisor of the club Ram Kha-

jurja; President, Shawetika Khajuria; Patron of District Mountaineering Association, Jammu Vivek Chauhan; Executive editor, Sportsline, Sanjiv Sharma; mountaineers Shashi Kant Sharma and Shipa Charak; senior members Navneet Gupta, Seema Kharyal, BINDERPAL Singh, Anu Sharma, besides Akash Deep Sharma, Ajay Thappa, 12 years old Eshani Singh and 4 years old Aadheesh

Sharma. Starting the 5 km trek from Mantalai, about 55 kms from Udhampur, the trekkers enjoyed beautiful panoramic views of the sacred Sudhmahadev and Mantalai areas while ascending the arid trail. The trekkers were awestruck by the beauty of nature when they suddenly entered a dense and dark forest which continued for about 2 kms. The trekkers were

in for another pleasant surprise when a sprawling meadow appeared before them on reaching the top point of the trek, a tranquil place surrounded by lush green deodar forest at an altitude of 7200ft. It was an ideal camping place with tap water and a community hall.

After having Darshan of Naina Devi Deity the trekkers had a well deserved rest and the much needed heavy refreshment.

The trekkers adopted a short but very steep route in the dense forest on their return trek to Mantalai.

It is pertinent to mention here that this trek was a part of the exhaustive reconnaissance being carried out by the club to explore the possibilities of making Jammu region an all weather hub of soft adventure activities like adventure camps/ picnics and short heritage treks.

CORRIGENDUM 01

In reference to this office e-NIT No: 02 of 2024-25 dated 17-05-2024 the closing date of tender is extended upto 03-06-2024.

All terms & conditions are remains the same.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division
Nowshera

No: PHEDN/2024-25/584-87
Dated: -28-05-2024 DIP/J-766/24

EDITORIAL

Impact of
Social Media

Social media has revolutionized the way we communicate, share information, and interact with the world. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok have become integral parts of our daily lives, influencing everything from personal relationships to global politics. While social media has numerous benefits, it also presents significant challenges that must be addressed to ensure a healthy balance between virtual and real-world interactions.

One of the most notable benefits of social media is its ability to connect people across the globe. It allows individuals to maintain relationships despite geographical distances, fostering a sense of community and belonging. Social media platforms enable people to share experiences, celebrate achievements, and offer support during difficult times. This connectivity has been particularly valuable during the COVID-19 pandemic, as people turned to social media to stay connected while physically isolated. In addition to personal connections, social media has become a powerful tool for information dissemination. News spreads rapidly through social networks, making it easier for people to stay informed about current events. Social media also provides a platform for marginalized voices, giving individuals and communities the opportunity to share their stories and advocate for social change. Movements like #MeToo and Black Lives Matter have gained momentum through social media, highlighting issues of sexual harassment and racial injustice and prompting widespread conversations and action.

Despite its benefits, social media also poses several challenges. One significant issue is the spread of misinformation. False or misleading information can quickly go viral, leading to confusion and mistrust. This has been particularly problematic during the COVID-19 pandemic, with misinformation about the virus and vaccines undermining public health efforts. Social media companies have struggled to balance free speech with the need to curb harmful content, often facing criticism from both sides.

Another challenge is the impact of social media on mental health. Studies have shown that excessive use of social media can lead to anxiety, depression, and feelings of loneliness. The pressure to present a perfect life online can contribute to low self-esteem and body image issues, particularly among young people. Cyberbullying is another concern, with social media providing a platform for harassment and abuse that can have devastating effects on individuals.

Privacy is also a major issue in the age of social media. Users often share personal information without fully understanding the implications, leading to concerns about data security and surveillance. High-profile data breaches and the misuse of personal information by companies have raised questions about the ethics of social media business practices and the need for stronger regulations. The future of social media will likely involve addressing these challenges while continuing to leverage its benefits. Increased regulation and oversight may be necessary to combat misinformation and protect user privacy. Social media companies will need to develop more effective tools for monitoring content and ensuring that their platforms are safe and inclusive spaces. At the same time, there is a growing movement toward using social media for positive social impact. Initiatives that promote digital literacy and critical thinking can help users navigate the complex information landscape. Efforts to raise awareness about the potential negative effects of social media and promote healthy usage habits are also essential.

In conclusion, social media has profoundly transformed our society, offering both significant benefits and notable challenges. As we move forward, it is crucial to find a balance that maximizes the positive aspects of social media while mitigating its risks. By fostering a more informed and mindful approach to social media use, we can harness its power to connect and inform while protecting the well-being of individuals and communities.

What's the plan of action after D-Day on June 4?

By: Shikha Mukerjee

Two dramatically different expectations are racing to the finish line; there is the Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party that believes that its initial target of the National Democratic Alliance winning 400-plus out of the total 543 Lok Sabha seats will be exceeded. And, then there is the Opposition, a patchwork of the Congress, regional and smaller parties, which is equally convinced that its final strength will surpass the 272 minimum majority mark. In a first-past-the-post electoral system, the minimum should separate the winner from the loser.

In the system successfully modified by the present ruling dispensation in the BJP, the minimum is a mere number; what can be made to happen is far more important. The strategy has been successfully tested in Maharashtra, in Madhya Pradesh and most recently in Bihar, when the ruling alliance or party has changed through horse trading in which legislators have changed colour to deliver control over a state government that the BJP did not win in a free and fair election.

What happens after June 4, when the ballots are counted, is speculation. Voters, however, must be prepared for an outcome that they did not choose; that is, if horse trading happens then voters will have every reason to feel that their power to deliver a verdict has been usurped; they will simply be told to lump it. Power in an election, after the votes are counted, moves from the people to the elected as the representatives of those people. If the voters get what they did not choose for themselves, the post-election empowered political

establishment has only one recommendation; leave it to your elders and betters.

And, that sort of high-handedness is disempowering.

If the 2024 Lok Sabha election delivers an emphatic mandate to Mr Modi, an avatar or a divinely endowed being or the new mahatma as he has explained in the 40-plus interviews he did, what can voters expect in the five-year term for which he is elected? First, a wait of three months while the action plans are finalised by the new government for the transformation of India from a poor, developing economy to a fully development economic superpower, one of the top three in the world. Second, a timed release of announcements on the "guarantees", that is the assurances Mr Modi and his second in command, Amit Shah, gave through the long seven-phase election and even longer campaign. Third, get down to brass tacks, implementing the promises listed in the BJP election manifesto.

The brass tacks in the manifesto or "Sankalp Patra" has the details of Mr Modi's plan of action. This plan has three parts; there are things that extend the life of schemes-programmes-policies by another five years; there are things that are new like putting in a bid for the 2036 Olympic Games. There are another set of promises that when implemented would reconstruct the base of India's political system.

The more of the same variety of promises are not exciting. The prospect of hosting the Olympics or to make Bharat the world's third largest economy without a specific deadline mentioned is an ambition that may or may not be fulfilled.

The promises that certainly will

be acted upon are changing the schedule of elections in India by bringing in "One Nation-One Election" and so gifting the BJP an almost permanent advantage in electoral politics. To implement the promise of "One Nation-One Election", Mr Modi in his third term will necessarily amend the Constitution. To implement the Uniform Civil Code too, the Constitution will have to be rewritten. In order to rewrite the Constitution, a third term in office under Mr Modi's leadership will require more than a stable majority in the Lok Sabha. It will require a major shift in power, a new alignment in who has control over state legislatures that would challenge the present distribution of some states ruled by regional parties to a new distribution where the BJP would be what the Congress was till 1967, the only party of governance in India.

The alternative plan of action as laid down in the Congress manifesto, with additions and subtractions by partners of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance from the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party to the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamul Congress is a more nuts and bolts charter with start dates and end dates. The Opposition's goals are in two parts, some immediate, like a caste census and 50 per cent reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs, tackling inflation, bumping up employment, direct cash transfers to youth and women, a law on minimum support prices for agriculture, raising the floor of minimum wages and ending government contractual employment and filling government vacancies.

It is a different matter, that nei-

ther Mr Modi nor the Opposition has bothered to promise that the long-postponed Census, or head count of India's population, will be done immediately. How any political party or alliance in power can hope to deliver benefits to India's vulnerable population without knowing how many beneficiaries it needs to provide for is a mystery. Since all political parties have promised to reserve 33 per cent of seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures for women, how exactly this grand empowering gesture is to be implemented has not been mentioned in any manifesto. Women as voters do matter; women as legislators can wait — is the message of India's political class.

Leaders invariably talk about visions; these are not spirit-induced foretelling about the future but rather more mundane targets like the deadline for building a road or selling off the country's public assets like ports, airports, highways, banks, universities and research institutions. Political visions are all about what happens next year or the year after.

The 2024 Lok Sabha election is a fight over two different visions; one that promises an Indian on the moon and the other that promises to give Indians the basic capabilities to access whatever opportunities they individually seek. Building India's future in space is one thing; building the capabilities of 21.5 crore Indian voters under the age of 29 is quite another. By June 4, India will have decided what it wants; but then it is probable that India's decision could be overruled, if the margin of defeat or victory is thin enough for a trade to take place. The "no wave, low turnout" election will test which side respects a mandate delivered by the people and how they do so.

Women Struggling with Climate Crisis

By: Vijay Garg

A recent internal research conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development revealed that women and children in Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Telangana are particularly vulnerable to climate change-related disasters. Children exposed to climate change-related hazards are more likely to be stunted, underweight and have early pregnancies. Impact of climate change on women and children in our country Very little research has been done on these issues, and they are often ignored in policy making. According to a study conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the risk of floods, drought and cyclones has increased in 70 percent of the districts of India. 183 districts are vulnerable to disasters like cyclones and floods, while 349 districts are facing drought. Malnutrition, teenage pregnancy and domestic violence indicators among women and children are also very serious in these districts. About 51 percent of the country's children are forced to face the double blow of poverty and climate crisis. R is. According to statistics, about 35.2 crore children of India face a natural disaster at least once a year. In such a situation, we may try to become developed, but somehow this is far from reality and along with the present, the future of India is also a matter of concern. Whether we dominate the global economy or not, meaningful action to tackle climate change

is desperately needed. But environmental crisis has never been an issue for politicians in our country and perhaps this is the reason why climate change The crisis that has arisen has become severe. Due to climate change the temperature is increasing rapidly. Now the situation has worsened to such an extent that even the child growing in the mother's womb is not safe. Today, due to rising temperatures all over the world, the risk of premature birth has increased manifold. Scientists have claimed that due to increase in temperature, not only newborn babies but even the fetus is in danger. Air quality is deteriorating due to climate change. Changing climate, transmission of infectious diseases, water quality and is leading to reduction in food security. Although climate change affects everyone, it affects men and women differently due to biological, social, economic and cultural reasons. Rising temperatures are posing serious risks to pregnant women. The risk of premature delivery, high blood pressure during pregnancy and 'pre-eclampsia' is increasing significantly. Due to exposure of pregnant women to excessive heat, the risk of miscarriage and premature delivery has increased manifold. America's National According to a study by the Institute of Health, the chances of early delivery increases by eleven percent in women exposed to extreme heat during the first seven weeks of pregnancy. Climate change increases the spread of diseases, which poses a threat to human health. Women from poor communities in India are more vul-

nerable to health risks. The biggest reason for this is that they are forced to live in an environment which is quite poor in terms of health and cleanliness. It is polluted. Also, such women do not get adequate health services. Increasing diseases directly impact the lives of women. If health is bad, it is natural to have problems, but if any other member of the family also becomes ill, then it affects the daily routine of the women of the house the most. In this way women remain trapped in the cycle of disease. The average temperature in India increased by 0.7 degrees between 1901 and 2018. Due to this, heat wave days increased rapidly across the country. Call it 'silent' The name 'Killer' has been given. Even today, about 67 percent of the population of our country lives in such areas where the air quality is more than the national standard of 40 micrograms per cubic meter. Due to this, the average age of Indians is decreasing by 5.3 years. Its biggest impact is on women's health, because women are not safe even inside the house. The smoke coming out of the kitchen is also affecting the health of women. According to statistics, dwarfism is increasing in the northern plains of Uttar Pradesh, while in North Maharashtra and South Madhya Pradesh have been identified for underweight children. Due to the impact of climate change, children are six percent more likely to suffer from stunting and 24 percent more likely to be underweight. Experience a 35 percent reduction in the lowest dietary diversity, and if they are under five years of age and exposed to drought, the

likelihood of death increases by 12 percent. The study identified key sites in terms of impacts on women and young girls in areas prone to drought, floods and cyclones. Parts of North Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, parts of South West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, parts of Eastern Maharashtra, North Madhya Pradesh and Southern Uttar Pradesh are most affected. In such areas, drought conditions increase the risk of underweight women by 35 percent, child marriage by 37 percent, teenage pregnancy by 17 percent and domestic violence by 50 percent. Due to climate change, extreme heat and heat waves have become severe across the country. Global warming is the main reason for heat wave in India. Is c. Burning fossil fuels, deforestation and industrial activities are causing long-term increases in the Earth's average temperature. Recently everyone saw the forest fire in Uttarakhand. Every year around 1.53 lakh people across the world die due to extreme heat. Surprisingly, 20 percent of the deaths occur in India alone, which is the highest. It is not right to justify deaths due to increasing heat. Government to issue action plan to deal with effects of heat wave in each state and city Need to be made, so that such untimely death can be avoided. A long-term policy is needed to protect women and children from the impacts of climate change.

(Vijay Garg Educational
Columnist Malout Punjab)

Decoding Samsung 'Solve for Tomorrow' for the next generation of Innovators

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow' serves as a platform that enables the convergence of innovative concepts that help in finding solutions for some of the most pressing global issues.

This initiative transcends theory, extending an invitation to young innovators to lead and collaborate in building a sustainable future. The 'Solve for Tomorrow' platform recognizes the importance of harnessing innovation for yielding advancements.

A World of Possibilities: Imagine a realm where every idea, big or small, holds the potential to shape a greener, more sustainable and an inclusive future empowering the communities.

The two distinct tracks – School Track and Youth Track, each are dedicated to championing a specific theme and are targeted towards different age groups. Both the tracks will run simultaneously, ensuring equal opportunity and a level playing field for all students.

Enter Samsung's 'Solve for Tomorrow'—a platform where innovation meets real-world challenges head-on.

Where Innovation Meets Action: 'Solve for Tomorrow' isn't just about dreaming; it's about turning those dreams into a reality. Young minds are encouraged to convert innovative concepts into practical solutions for a better tomorrow.

From regulating body temperature with semiconductor devices to

combating gender biases through AI, the sky is the limit for participants. This initiative empowers young innovators to lead the charge towards sustainability, and social causes like education, healthcare, diversity and inclusion.

It all starts with a simple registration at Samsung Solve for Tomorrow 2024. Whether in school or college, participants bring their passion and creativity to the table to tackle pressing environmental issues.

From ideation to implementation, the competition unfolds in phases designed to nurture ideas from conception to execution. Research, planning, and feasibility assessments pave the way for real-world impact.

As ideas solidify, partici-

pants dive into the implementation phase, leveraging technology and resources to transform concepts into tangible solutions.

100 teams pitch their ideas to a jury in regional rounds, with 20 semi-finalists advancing to an innovation walk at Samsung's R&D centers and regional headquarters where they attend workshops. At a National Pitch Event at IIT Delhi, they vie for a spot among 10 finalists who undergo one-on-one training. The Grand Finale crowns the 'Community Champion' and 'Environment Champion' of Solve for Tomorrow 2024, each receiving a grant of INR 25 lakh and 50 lakh respectively, plus Samsung Galaxy products for their school and college.

Winning isn't the end; it's just the beginning. With Samsung's ongoing support, winning ideas will evolve into sustainable projects with lasting benefits for consumers.

'Solve for Tomorrow' isn't just a competition; it's a movement. It empowers individuals and communities to effect positive change through innovation and collaboration. Another key element/benefit of the programme is that the intellectual property/patent of the idea remains with the team that develops the solution.

If you have a passion for innovation and solving pressing environmental issues, take the next step. Your chance to contribute to environmental preservation is just a few clicks away.

Chimmer Mizzen Basti residents aghast over dilapidated condition of link road, seeks admin intervention

Top News Report

KULGAM, May 29: Inhabitants of Chimmer Mizzen Basti area of DH Pora area in South Kashmir's Kulgam district have expressed strong resentment against the authorities over dilapidated road conditions in their locality.

The residents said that a link road connecting in their locality with the main road to Mizzan Basti are dotted with potholes, giving a tough time for commuters adding that our roads have turned muddy.

"We are confined to our homes during bad weather as all roads are getting waterlogged due to lack of drainage system and people are to facing difficulties in walking," they said.

They also claimed that the road had not been repaired, and no macad-



imization has been done since decades. The locals blamed that the authorities weren't concerned for the inconvenience caused to the commuters due to dilapidated condition of roads.

They further claimed that while all roads in district Kulgam were macadamized, the brief stretch of link roads in these have been forgotten altogether

by the concerned department and despite bringing the issue into the notice of concerned authorities several times.

Meanwhile, residents of the area appealed Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam and other concerned department to macadamise the road on priority basis so that residents may have a sigh of relief.

To attract foreign tourists, movie shooting begins in Anantnag



Top News Report

ANANTNAG, May 29: After a decline in film shootings in Kashmir post-90s, recent developments such as the introduction of a new film policy have reignited interest from Bollywood and even British actors in filming in the picturesque locales of Kashmir.

According to our correspondent, tourist spots in Anantnag District like Verinag, Sinthan Top, and Daksum Kokernag are witnessing the filming of a movie titled 'A Million Dollar Tourist' featuring actors from London.

The main goal of the movie is to attract foreign tourists, reminiscent of the ones who visited Kashmir before the 1990s.

Speaking to Top News Report Cary Shaw, one of the British actors, said, "I am very excited to be here, and I believe

foreign tourists should come; it is a safe and brilliant place."

A scriptwriter for the movie told that they have crafted the script to facilitate collaboration between European locals and Bollywood artists. He said that in the past, many foreign tourists traveled to Kashmir, but their numbers have dwindled. "The main aim of the movie is to attract international tourists and this movie should serve as an attraction for them."

He said that foreign tourists should visit Kashmir not only for movie shootings but also to boost tourism.

Another actor Suhail Saeed in the movie expressed joy at seeing the shooting taking place at Verinag. He encouraged everyone from Bollywood and Hollywood to visit for film shoots.

He said they are having three projects in the

Valley, all set to be shoot in South Kashmir, including Shopian. He added that 70% of the costs would be spent in South Kashmir, contributing to the local economy.

The movie's director Jeet Matharo told our correspondent that since the abrogation of Article 370, there has been significant improvement in Kashmir.

"Since the abrogation of Article 370, I have visited Kashmir three times, and it's unbelievable. This inspired me to shoot the feature film 'A Million Dollar Tourist.' We have British actors, crews from Mumbai, and local actors from the valley."

He said, "I finding South Kashmir suitable for filming and whole Kashmir is safe and an excellent place for shooting."

"We obtained all necessary permissions for our movie within two to three days, thanks to the new film policy," he added.

Chiteripora Phaloo residents in Kulgam hold protest against water scarcity; seek LG's intervention

Top News Report

KULGAM May 29: The residents of Chiteripora phaloo village in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday staged a protest against the Jal Shakti (PHE) department kulgam over the issue of non-availability of drinking water in the area.

Scores of the residents including men, women and children assembled on Road and raised Slogans against Jal Shakti department kulgam for failing to provide drinking over in their area.

Protestors block

phaloo chumkund road alleged that matter has been brought to the notice of the concerned administration but no improvement has been witnessed so far which forced us to hit streets.

The inhabitants said that we are demanding clean drinking water for their survival as the area is facing acute shortage of drinking water facilities from last one month.

The protesters appealed to higher authorities to look into the matter and to redress the problem at the earliest so that people can feel some sort of relief.

People suffer as JK Bank ATM at waltangoo kund remains defunct

Top News Report

KULGAM May 29: Automated Teller Machine (ATM) of Jammu and Kashmir Bank outside the shrine of Syed Noor Shah Wali baghdadi (RA) waltangoo kund has been troubling people as locals allege that it remains non-functional for last four days due to technical issues.

The locals said the due to the defunct ATM, the people from kund valley especially waltangoo face lots of difficulties.

Now the local residents appeal to the higher authorities of JK Bank & District Administration Kulgam to look into this matter as soon as possible.



GDC Mahanpur organizes Special Orientation cum Lecture



Top News Report

MAHANPUR, May 29: NSS Unit of GDC Mahanpur has organized a Special Orientation cum Lecture on May 29. It was organized by Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia, NSS P.O. under the able guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Sudan, Principal of the College. The programme was initiated by lamp lighting ceremony by the dignitaries. The expert of the Orientation was Dr. Jogindar

Singh Soodan, Physical Director of the College. Dr. Soodan not only shared his expertise on the topic "Role of Youth in Policing India" but also shared his personal experiences as an NSS Volunteer during his College days. Moreover, he also spoke in detail about the motto, logo, aims and objectives of National Service Scheme (NSS).

The aim of the Orientation Programme was to enlighten NSS Vol-

unteers not only with knowledge and information but also to empower them with skills required for making a prosperous society. The faculty members who were present in the Programme were Dr. Sudesh, Ms. Nisha, Dr. Sapna, Dr. Anil, Dr. Hilal, Dr. Suman and Dr. Nishu. The formal Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia, NSS P.O. Refreshment was given to all the volunteers.

Frequent power cuts irks residents: Shiv Sena

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 29: Tilak Shan, president Chenab Valley Shiv Sena (Shinde) on Wednesday alleged the whole Kishtwar District is facing with frequent unscheduled curtailment of electricity.

Kishtwar district is a source of electricity and huge projects have been successfully completed in the Chenab region and

there is many projects proposed to be started but despite of it the district is facing lack of electricity, he said.

Shan expressed resentment upon the PDD and district authority also. Shan demanded from Lt. Governor to redress the grievances of the citizens of the district and also demanded that no curtailment of electricity should be made after 6:00 PM.

J&K players bag six medals in Kickboxing C'hip

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: J&K Kickboxing team emerged as an exceptional force to be reckoned with at the recently concluded WAKO India Kickboxing Championship of Sub Juniors and Cadets 2024, held in Balewadi indoor stadium, Pune, Maharashtra. Four players from the team clinched victories across various categories and events.

The championship witnessed fierce competition among 24 states and 5 UT's from across the country, with an impressive participation of 1000 talented kick boxers. J&K participated with a contingent of 10 players and 2 coaches and showcased their mettle on the kickboxing arena. The athletes from WAKO J&K showcased their outstanding dedication, skill, and determination throughout the tournament. Their efforts

bore fruit as an impressive 04 players clinched victories across various categories and events.

"The collective excellence of WAKO J&K kickboxing talents shone brightly as the state bagged a total of 02 gold, 02 silver, and 02 bronze medals. This remarkable achievement underscores the dedication and hard work of the athletes and serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes across the UT," said Abhishek Jain, General Secretary of kickboxing association J&K.

Team was escorted by Team Coaches Wasim Shah and Sudarshan Singh (senior Coach) congratulated the players for their future success.

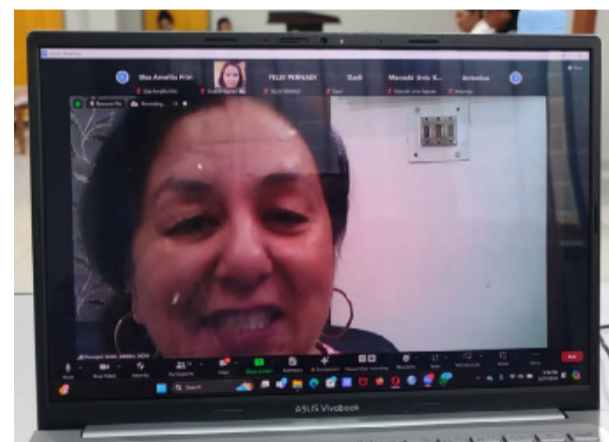
Gold- Zeeshan Nazir (light contact), Waqas Hafeez (light contact). Silver -Zeeshan Nazir (Point Fight), Muneeb Zahoor (light contact). Bronze- Aabu Sayan (light contact and point fight).

GCOE Jammu signs MoU with Indonesian University

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: The IQAC team of GCOE Jammu achieved a great landmark by signing the first ever international MoU with Universitas Kapuas Sintang Indonesia through virtual mode during an International Webinar on Global Connections: Bridging Borders through Virtual Collaborations. During the webinar the Rector, Vice Rector, faculty and students of Universitas Kapuas Sintang Indonesia were present on the occasion.

Dr. Jyoti Parihar, Principal GCOE Jammu while addressing the virtual gathering said that it was a historical moment for the college to make way for international collaborations through this MoU. She added that this initiative will help in



fostering academic excellence as well as cross-cultural exchange. It will also pave the way for joint projects, sharing of Best Practices in Teacher Training, professional development along with evolution of global perspective of students of both the institutions.

Prof Shalini Rana, IQAC Convener of GCOE Jammu and Dr Andi Arsi-

fan of Indonesia coordinated the online event. Prof. Rana apprised the audience about the achievements of the college and answered the queries of Indonesian students during the International webinar and virtual signing ceremony.

The program was attended by students and faculty of both the institutions.

GDC Bishnah conducts visit to adopted village

Top News Report

BISHNAH, May 29: GDC Bishnah organized a visit to adopted village Ratnal to commemorate the international Day of Action for women's health under the patronage of Principal of the college Dr. Shalini Samyal.

Village Sarpanch Kamal Singh welcome the team and accommodated them. Dr. Rama, a social activist, joint secretary of Arogyabharati NGO was the resource person.

In her deliberation she talked at length on "Health Life Style and women's menstrual hygiene".

During deliberation she specially focused on ailments a woman faces during monthly period, using of sanitary pads, prenatal and post-natal care. After thought provoking lecture the participants discussed their health issues with the doctors and sought the advice of Doctor.

Dr. Rama threw light on myths prevalent on menstrual and through the talk she attempted to demystify them. Dr. Rama also cleared the apprehension on menstrual period that a woman is unclean and she must observe certain ordeals during this time.

Around forty women participated enthusiastically and assured they will follow the advises of Doctor.

Dr. Nisar Ahmad Bhulla, coordinator of IQAC prepared a plan to conduct such visit for providing community service to enlighten women about their health rights.

Dr. Preeti Mahajan was leading the visiting team, Prof. Sania Hamid, Prof. Shrotika Rajput, Dr. Ratika Sharma and Dr. Geeta Lakhotra were the members. The entire programme coordinated by Dr. Geeta Lakhotra, NSS, PO.

Going by what designers are offering, floral sure if the flavour of the season. As these prints make their presence felt on red carpets the world over, here is a look at the trend

From New York Fashion Week, India's very own Lakme Fashion Week to Met Gala and the Cannes Film Festival, seems like designers are in a mood to paint flowers this summer, as it all goes floral! As petals, branches and flowers are in full bloom from head to toe, we ask designers whether there are some dos and don'ts one should keep in mind and how men can incorporate this trend into their wardrobe too.

Florals are integral to brand called Verb, founded by Pallavi Singhee. Pallavi says, "Floral patterns are a fundamental expression of our brand's aesthetic, symbolising vibrancy and innovation in design." Fashion designer Archana Jaju adds, "Each of our collection draws inspiration from nature. For summer, accessorising with floral-patterned lightweight scarves or jewellery can enhance an outfit subtly while embracing the natural theme."

Nothing new
Women have been wearing floral prints forever. Gauri Tandon, co-founder Isharya, says, "There is something



about florals that immediately lifts your mood." According to Jaju, both men and women can confidently experiment with bold and intricate floral prints. "It's

essential to balance the look by pairing florals with neutral or solid colours to maintain a cohesive outfit. Men can opt for floral shirts or accessories, while

women can explore floral dresses or mix-and-match floral tops with plain bottoms," she says.

#ForAllMen

Pallavi thinks that for men the key is not to 'overdo' it. She explains, "Simple beach shirts or subtle abstract floral motifs on footwear or oversized t-shirts work great. However, especially in summer, choose breathable fabrics that keep you cool." Gauri adds, "I loved Dan Levy's Loewe suit that he wore for the Met Gala. Sabyasachi Mukherjee also wore a sublime floral jacket for his Met Gala debut."

Floral fusion

Designer Anavalia Mishra also offers a summer collection called ÉTÉ with white as the anchor and rose as the primary motif. But the fact that it celebrates the cross-pollination of cultures, a fusion of Tamil and French life, makes it unique. The rose motif serves as the focal point of this collection. She says, "Hand-painted and then carved into wooden blocks, the rose is featured in bouquets, trellises, all over lattices and in individual placements."

Jennifer Lopez calls AI 'scary', says her face is manipulated in commercials for 'selling skincare'



Singer-actor Jennifer Lopez, who stars as a data analyst in her latest film "Atlas", says she has experienced the "scary" side of artificial intelligence (AI) with skincare advertisements using manipulated photos of her face. Lopez further said there are two sides to

technological advancements and her Netflix movie does a good job at depicting them.

"Selling skincare that I know nothing about" using manipulated photos of her face covered in "wrinkles", she told Variety at the Los Angeles premiere of "Atlas".

"It's really scary. Right away we had them stealing our faces. So, yes, (AI) is really scary... I think you should be respectful of AI... We have to be open to all possibilities. These movies that are talking about AI — especially this one — do a really good job of showing both sides," she added.

In the movie, Lopez plays Atlas Shepherd, a brilliant but misanthropic data analyst with a deep distrust of AI, who joins a mission to capture a renegade robot (played by Simu Liu) with whom she shares a mysterious past.

"But when plans go awry, her only hope of saving the future of humanity from AI is to trust it," read the streamer's official plotline.

Directed by Brad Peyton and written by Leo Sardarian and Aron Eli Coleite, "Atlas" also stars Lana Parrilla and Mark Strong.

Janhvi Kapoor talks about her 'Zingaat' viral dance with Rihanna

Bollywood's Gen-Z diva Janhvi Kapoor shared details about her viral video dancing to the track 'Zingaat' alongside global pop star Rihanna.

Janhvi appeared on the new episode of 'The Great Indian Kapil Show', along with her 'Mr and Mrs Mahi' co-star Rajkumar Rao.

The show is hosted by comedian Kapil Sharma.

During the conversation, Janhvi opened up about her dance video with Rihanna when the two attended an event in March in Mumbai.

Janhvi shared, "I had an amazing interaction with Rihanna. After her performance, she came down to meet and mingle with all of us. We all excitedly shouted when she came down, 'Rihanna! Rihanna!' and then she pointed at me and started walking towards me. I was scared that I might have done something wrong, but she completely surprised me."

"Rihanna said to me, 'I see your Instagram all the time'. And I was so surprised, I went, 'Me?' She then told me that I



am so hot and that she loved the way I did my wave, literally imitating my wave to me... I was like, 'What is happening here?' After that, I was ready to go home because how could anything else that could happen after, possibly top this moment in my life," shared Janhvi.

The actress further shared how the viral video of them dancing to 'Zingaat' came to be.

"My friends insisted that I should at least get a picture, and just as I was asking for a selfie,

'Zingaat' started playing, and I told her, 'This is my song!' She then said, 'Then dance!' and that's how we danced together and the video was created," concluded Janhvi.

'Zingaat', sung by Ajay Gogavale and Atul Gogavale, is from Janhvi's debut film 'Dhadak'. The episode will also see her and Rajkumar Rao sharing stories of fake auditions to boyfriend teasing.

'The Great Indian Kapil Show' airs on Netflix at 8 pm.

When two women of steel, one a terror mastermind and the other a master spy, clash, the outcome is both exciting and intriguing, which is what makes this web series an interesting watch

Special agents trying to bust a terrorist cell... you try hard to suppress that yawn! For haven't you seen similar premise unfolding in more than one web series. But let it be known, The Veil is not your run-of-the-mill spy thriller. What sets the drama apart is not just the fact that both the terror mastermind and the master strategist spy are women of steel.

It helps immensely that both the characters, MI6 agent Imogen Salter and Adilah El Idrissi, are beautifully fleshed out and enacted even more brilliantly by the two lead actresses — Emmy winner Elisabeth Moss of The Handmaid's Tale fame and Lebanese actress Yumna Marwan, respectively. There is a mystery around both of them, an inscrutable enigma.

The first few episodes keep the suspense going. Is Adilah, mother to a young daughter, the monster the CIA agent Max Peterson (Josh Charles) believes her to be? But as Imogen says, 'You see, it's not my job to think of her as a monster, or a saint. It's my job to get her to tell me what she knows'.

Rather, soon after she extracts Adilah from a Turkish-Syrian refugee camp in a daring onewoman mission, it's about



how fast she can extract the truth from her. What unfolds hereafter is a strange bonding between the two. Imogen is a pro at making people repose faith in her and talk.

By the fifth episode, she is yet to succeed in her mission and Adilah is certainly not singing like a canary. But the series has some wonderful songs packed in background (and credits) and fantabulous cinematography by Bonnie Elliott. If jumping countries from France to Turkey the camera captures the beauty of locales it moves into, cre-

ator Steven Knight who earlier gave us the amazing slow-burn and captivating Peaky Blinders makes you hold your breath at more than one juncture. Most series about terrorism are accused of being Islamophobic. No doubt, the terror group on radar is ISIS and possess the same jihadi junoon.

Two are sacrificed while transferring the lethal chemical they intend to take to the shores of America. But then we have Malik Amar (Dali Benssalah), an agent with French intelligence agency DGSE, who even has a

romantic dalliance with Imogen. He happens to be a Muslim of Algerian descent too. Indeed, his religion is held against him by Max who believes in pulling all the stops, even flouting rules in a country in which he has no jurisdiction.

The beauty of the episodic series that dropped every Tuesday on Disney+Hotstar with the finale set for today is not how it will peak, but how it holds your attention all through with sharp writing by Knight himself, equally sharp editing by Hunter M. Via and Nikki McChristie, and the grey areas of humanity it explores.

The fascinating even if a trifle verbose face-off between Imogen and Adilah in the fifth episode present both sides of the argument. 'Millions of people have shitty lives, they don't join a terrorist group,' argues Imogen. And Adilah's counter is 'It's a problem only when it happens to your people on your land.' Clearly, how the world looks depends upon the vantage point from where we see it. Even though one of the pithy dialogues goes, 'The best lies are mostly true', watch it to understand how truth is always shrouded and terror has more than one face.

Kajol, Prabhudeva to reunite for action thriller 'Maharagni - Queen of Queens'

27 years after 'Minsara Kanavu', actors Kajol and Prabhudeva are set to share screen space in action thriller 'Maharagni - Queen of Queens'.

The upcoming film marks the Hindi directorial debut of Telugu filmmaker Charan Tej Uppalapati, a press release said.

Naseeruddin Shah, Samyuktha Menon, Jisshu Sengupta, Aditya Seal, Pramod Pathak and Chhaya Kadam of Cannes Grand Prix winner 'All We Imagine as Light' fame also round out the cast of the pan India film.

The production on the first schedule of 'Maharagni' was recently completed. The makers unveiled the official

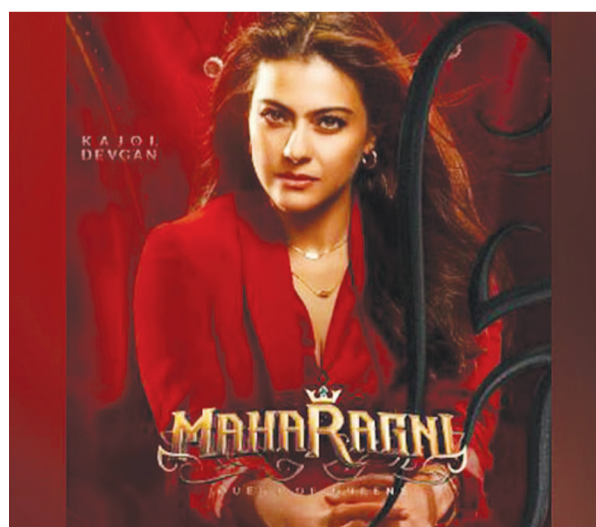
teaser of the film.

Uppalapati has also written the film, which is produced by Harman Baweja and Venkata Anish Dorigillu under the labels of Baweja Studios and E7 Entertainment.

'Maharagni' has been a labour of love, said the director.

"Collaborating with actors like Kajol, Prabhudeva, Naseer sir, Samyuktha Menon and Jisshu Sengupta has elevated the project to new heights. Their unmatched charisma and acting abilities breathe life into the characters. I can't wait for the audience to witness this on screen," Uppalapati said in a statement.

Baweja said this is



a "special project" for Baweja Studios.

"We are excited to collaborate with Eternal 7 and have an extraordinary cast featuring Kajol, Prabhudeva, Naseeruddin Shah and Samyuktha Menon. Kajol's talent and authenticity make

her perfect for this role. At Baweja Studios, we believe in telling powerful stories. I am thrilled to bring this project to life with such a stellar team," he said.

"As soon as I came across this story, I knew it carried a powerful

message that needed to reach the masses. With Charan Tej Uppalapati's keen eye for direction and the remarkable talent of our stellar cast, we are confident that we will deliver a unique vision that will make this story shine," added Venkata Anish Dorigillu.

'Maharagni' also has on board renowned technicians, including GK Vishnu as director of photography, music director Harshavardhan Rameshwar, editor Navin Nooli, and production designer Saahi Suresh. The screenplay is penned by Niranjani Iyengar and Jessica Khurana.

The film will be released in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.

As Sohni Mahiwal was staged by students of the Department of Indian Theatre, Panjab University, the audience was left spellbound



Folklore connects us with each other, also the past with the present. This was very much apparent at the annual production, 'Sohni Mahiwal', of the Department of Indian Theatre, Panjab University, Chandigarh.

The play, written by Ekaam Maanuke, was dedicated to Prof. Balwant Gargi, Padma Shri, the founding director of the Department, and

was inspired by his play Sohni. The chairperson of the Department, as well as the director and creator of the play, Navdeep Kaur, invited everyone to bridge the gap between our roots and modern sensibilities.

With a houseful studio, the first day of the production was a massive success. The audience applauded and cheered the hard work put on

display by the talented team. Details of every aspect were looked into well, right from the costumes to the set designs. The lighting work by Avtar Sahni and sound by Abhishek Bharti were appreciable too. As performances and the rest of the elements combined, the audience was witness to a marvellous spectacle.

Later, Navdeep said, "I am thankful to the cast to crew, which worked tirelessly for 45 days, blurring the line between night and day, to make this production possible. It was a total team effort and I am very happy with the response on the opening day. Hoping for the same in the coming days."

PM Modi hints at conspiracy behind Naveen Patnaik's falling health, pledges special panel probe once elected

Journalist faints in PM's Odisha rally, he rushes his own docs

NEW DELHI, May 29 (Agencies): In a major move in Odisha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hinted at a possible conspiracy behind sudden deterioration of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's health and promised to launch a probe into the matter after the "formation of the BJP government in the state".

Addressing a poll rally in Mayurbhanj, the PM said after June 10 the BJP government in Odisha will form a special committee to investigate why Naveen Patnaik's health is suddenly falling and what is happening to him.

"All well-wishers of Naveen Babu are concerned. They are very worried over this sudden deterioration in Naveen Patnaik's health in the past one year. When they meet me, close aides of Naveen Babu mention his health. They say that Naveen Patnaik is now unable to do anything on his own. Long time aides of Naveen Babu believe there could be a possible conspiracy behind this sudden deterioration of Naveen Patnaik's health," the PM said.

He said the question is whether there is a conspiracy behind



Patnaik's ill health.

"The Odisha people have a right to know this. I wonder whether behind all this is the hand of the lobby enjoying the fruits of power from behind the curtains. It is important to lift the veil from this conspiracy and for that a probe is essential. So when the BJP wins Odisha after June 10, our government, will form a special committee to investigate why Patnaik's health is suddenly falling and what is happening with his health," the PM said.

On Tuesday also, top BJP leaders had shared a video

featuring a frail Patnaik, with his left hand trembling. The video captured Patnaik's confidante VK Pandian, the former bureaucrat-turned-politician, pushing his boss's hand behind the lecturer on the stage. The video saw BJP leaders question the health of Patnaik, who issued a video statement saying he was well.

On Wednesday, the PM sought to change the narrative by hinting at a probable conspiracy behind Patnaik's ill health and promising the people of Odisha a probe to determine that.

Patnaik, 77, is the second longest serving chief minister in

the country's history and if re-elected, would surpass former Sikkim chief minister Pawan Kumar Chamling's record. The latter was in power for 24 years and 167 days – from December 12, 1994, to May 27, 2019.

Patnaik, a five-time CM, took charge as Odisha CM on March 5, 2000 and has since been holding the position.

Six Lok Sabha and 42 assembly seats in Odisha will go to the polls in the last phase of elections on June 1. Lok Sabha and assembly polls in the state are being held simultaneously.

Journalist faints in PM's Odisha rally, he rushes his own docs

After a journalist fainted in extreme heat during Modi's Odisha rally in Mayurbhanj on Wednesday he rushed his own team of doctors to tend to the person.

Modi saw the journalist falling to the ground and halted his speech. He asked his medical team to attend to the scribe at the earliest.

The journalist was later shifted to the district hospital.

Free ration leaving people with more food than they can consume: Rajnath Singh in Bihar



KARAKAT (BIHAR), May 29 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday claimed that under the free ration scheme, people were getting more food grains than they could consume and they ended up selling the surplus in the market.

The former BJP president, who was addressing an election rally in Karakat Lok Sabha constituency of Bihar, also, cited figures to assert that the food inflation rate in the country was "the lowest in the world" and expressed dismay over allegations of price rise.

"Are you not getting 5 kg of food grains each? I know if there are four members in a family, each is getting a supply of 5 kg and those who are not able to consume it, sell off the surplus," Singh said with a chuckle, breaking into the local dialect Bhojपुरi.

Claiming that the central government has not done a favour to people by providing them with welfare measures like toilets and pucca

houses, he said BJP people are in politics with the spirit of service.

"There is so much hubblebub around price rise. I would like to tell you that food inflation in the country is the lowest in the world at 2.91 per cent. In the US, it is 7.79 per cent, 19 per cent in France, 8.5 per cent in Australia, 48 per cent in Pakistan and 21 per cent in Sri Lanka," he said.

The defence minister challenged the Congress and its Bihar ally RJD, to counter him on these facts.

"If there is a mistake, I will admit it since I have never tried to cheat people in my political career," said Singh.

In his nearly 30-minute-long speech, the senior BJP leader mocked the Congress, claiming that it will soon be extinct like dinosaurs, and likened RJD to a lantern, the party's poll symbol, of which the flame had grown unsteady since "the oil was running dry".

Singh also showered encomiums on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claiming that India was

no longer looked down upon as a weak country under his rule.

"Pakistan does not dare to send terrorists any more... Russia and Ukraine agreed to halt their war to enable safe return of our students stranded there," he said.

He also lauded the government for scrapping Article 370 and bringing a law against triple talaq.

"We do not accept any practice that hurts the honour of our sisters and daughters. We act without caring about votes," he said.

Singh also said after the elections, people should look forward to greater welfare measures from the Modi government, and remarked: "People from all social segments, if they are more than 70 years of age, will be made eligible for free medical treatment under the Ayushman scheme. You never know, Modi may approve it in the first cabinet meeting itself".

Turning towards Upenendra Kushwaha, the Rashtriya Lok Morcha president who is the NDA candidate from Karakat, Singh said, "I am glad that you have been allotted the gas cylinder as the poll symbol because Modi is going to distribute more gas cylinders in his upcoming tenure".

Congress asks PM Modi why action against TMC leaders stalled after they joined BJP

NEW DELHI, May 29 (Agencies): The Congress on Wednesday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi why CBI's action against Suwendu Adhikari and ED's action against Tapas Roy got stalled after they left the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and joined the BJP.

On the eve of his Bengal visit on Wednesday, Congress general secretary (in charge of communication) Jairam Ramesh said CBI filed an FIR against the then TMC MP Suwendu Adhikari in connection with the Narada scam in April 2017. The CBI sought sanction from the Lok Sabha speaker to prosecute him in April 2019. Adhikari joined the BJP in December 2020, and the CBI never received the Lok Sabha speaker's sanction.

Similarly, TMC leader Tapas Roy was raided by the ED in January 2024 in connection with

a money laundering case. He had joined the BJP in March 2024. Just a few months prior to his joining, Adhikari had alleged that Roy was involved in a municipal recruitment scam but this allegation also disappeared once Roy joined the party.

"PM Narendra Modi's 'Bhrashtachar Hatao' slogan is shamelessly plastered all over the country even as his party is busy handing tickets to corrupt politicians. Can the outgoing PM shed any light on why CBI and ED action against these leaders has been stalled? How can the BJP make pretensions to eradicating corruption when their 'washing machine' is clearly at full spin in West Bengal?" Ramesh said.

The Congress also accused PM Modi of withholding Rs 7,000 crore of ration funds from West Bengal because his face is not



"plastered" on ration.

"In an incredibly petty move, the Centre has been withholding National Food Security Act funds from West Bengal for not displaying the outgoing prime minister's face on ration shops. In an attempt to coerce the state government into displaying sign boards and flexes featuring the outgoing prime minister's photos, the Centre has withheld Rs 7,000 crore of paddy procurement funds. This could seriously hinder the state's paddy procurement and the availability of rice for the public distribution

system.

"Why has the outgoing PM so callously neglected the health and wellbeing of the people of West Bengal? Is his publicity more important than people's daily food?" Ramesh asked.

Ramesh said, "Modi Sarkar has blocked National Health Mission funding to over 11,000 sub-health centres in West Bengal. These sub-health centres form the first line of defence for India's poor - they are staffed by nurses and provide vaccines for children, tablets and medicines for common fever, malaria, tuberculo-

sis, and other infectious diseases. While the sub-centres are supposed to be called Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres, the state government had named them Sushasthya Centres. In a letter dated November 25 2023, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare wrote to states, ordering them to rename sub-centres 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir' and paint them orange.

The medical community has criticised this attempt by the BJP to 'saffronise' medical centres, and the state government has refused to implement it. In a petty and vindictive move, the Modi Sarkar seems to have blocked funds just because the state government refused to paint sub-centres a different colour.

This comes after the Centre has already blocked state funds to MGNREGA and a Central housing scheme."

6 of family killed as car plunges into canal in Maharashtra's Sangli

SANGLI, May 29 (Agencies): Six members of a family were killed and a woman was seriously injured when the car in which they were travelling plunged into a dry canal near Tasgaon on Wednesday, a police official said.

According to Shivaji Mandle, the on-duty officer of Tasgaon police station, the crash took place on Tasgaon-Manerajuri Road around 1.30 am when the speeding Alto car plunged into the Tasari Canal in the darkness.

As the canal was dry owing to the end of the summer season, the car crashed with full force on the canal bed around 10 metres below and its front portion was badly crushed.

The occupant family was returning to Tasgaon from Kavathe-Mahankal where they had gone to celebrate the birthday of one of the daughters -- among the deceased.

Though the exact cause of the accident was being investigated, a preliminary probe indicated that the vehicle driver from among the family members, may have dozed off at the wheel at that hour.

The injured victims lay in the inky darkness of the canal, much below the road level, for hours, screaming for help but there was nobody to hear them or render assistance.

It was only around dawn that a local villager spotted the tragedy

and sounded an alert, informed the police and organised rescue work by 6.30 am, said Mandle.

The rescuers rushed the sole survivor, Swapnali V Bhonsle, 30, to the LifeCare Hospital in Tasgaon with severe injuries, Mandle added, and the legal formalities are being carried out.

The other victims who perished in the accident were identified as Rajendra J Patil, 60; his wife Sujata R Patil, 55; their daughter Priyanka A Kharade, 30; grandchildren Dhruva, 3; Rajvi, 2; and Kartiki, 1.

A crane has been requisitioned to remove the car from the canal bed; the bodies have been sent for autopsy, said Mandle.

Man hacks to death 8 members of his family in MP's Chhindwara; then hangs self



CHHINDWARA, May 29 (Agencies): A man allegedly hacked to death eight members of his joint family with an axe in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district and later hanged himself, a police official said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Tuesday night at Bodal Kachhar village, the official from Mahuljihi police station said.

The reason behind the incident is not clear. Senior officials, including the Chhindwara collector and superintendent of police, rushed to the village, which is about 100 km from the district headquarters. Police are conducting a probe.

17 cars gutted in east Delhi, five shops damaged in Chandni Chowk blaze

NEW DELHI, May 29 (Agencies): Seventeen cars were gutted by fire that broke out at a civic authority-run parking lot in east Delhi's Madhu Vihar area on Wednesday, officials said.

No one got injured in the incident that was reported at 1.17 am. Nine fire tenders were pressed into service and they controlled the blaze in four hours, an official from Delhi Fire

Service (DFS) said.

The cars belonged to the locals who used to park their vehicles in the parking lot on rent basis, the official said, adding that 17 cars, including an SUV, were damaged in the fire.

"Some vehicles were damaged but we managed to save the rest. There were no injuries in the incident," DFS officer Yashwant Meena said.

According to a police officer, it is suspected that the incident could be a result of some fire in bushes in the parking lot.

A case is being registered and further probe is underway, he said.

In another incident, five shops were damaged in a fire that broke out in north Delhi's Chandni Chowk area on Wednesday, officials said.

According to another DFS official, a call regarding the blaze near Fatehpuri Masjid was received at 3.12 am and eight fire tenders were pressed into service.

The fire was doused by 5 am, he said.



28 people killed as bus plunges into ravine in Pakistan

Women and children are among the deceased

KARACHI, May 29 (Agencies): At least 28 people, including women and children, were killed on Wednesday in Pakistan after a speeding passenger bus veered off the road and fell into a ravine in the remote Balochistan province, according to media reports.

The bus, heading from Turbat to Quetta, fell into the ravine near Washuk town, around 700 kilometres from Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province.

The accident was a result of over speeding, according to the report, which said that women and children were among the deceased.

The accident took place after the tyre of the passenger



bus burst, Geo News reported quoting rescue officials.

About 22 people sustained injuries in the accident and were sent to the Civil Hospital in Basima.

Road accidents are common in Pakistan where traffic rules and safety standards are hardly followed.

On May 18, at least 13 people belonging to

the same family were killed and nine others were injured as a truck plunged into a ditch in Punjab's Khushab district.

On May 3, at least 20 people lost their lives while 21 others sustained injuries after a passenger bus veered off a narrow mountain road and plummeted into a ravine in Gilgit Baltistan.

North Korea sends balloons with trash across border, Seoul calls it 'dangerous'

SEOUL, May 29 (Agencies): South Korea accused North Korea on Wednesday of sending a large number of balloons across the heavily fortified border between the countries to drop objects that included trash and excrement, calling the act base and dangerous.

The military's explosives ordinance unit and chemical and biological warfare response team were deployed to inspect and collect the objects, and an alert was issued warning residents to keep away and report any sightings to authorities.

By Wednesday, more than 150 balloons had been detected, with some landing on the ground while others were still in the air, local media reported, citing military sources.

Balloons have regularly been sent the other way by South Korean activists, often led by North Korean defectors.

Those balloons carry leaflets with messages critical of Pyongyang, stirring tension between



the neighbours, including incidents when the North reportedly tried to shoot them down.

Photographs released by the South Korean military on Wednesday showed inflated balloons with plastic bags tethered to them.

Other images appeared to show trash strewn around collapsed balloons, with the word "excrement" written on a bag in one photograph.

On Sunday, North Korea's vice

defence minister issued a statement vowing to exercise "strong power for self-defence" and warned that "mounds of waste-paper and filth" would be sent to the South in response to its flying "dirty things" to the North.

North Korea has reacted angrily to South Korean activists' balloons, which also carry information about the democratic society in the South and even USB memory sticks with K-pop music videos.

Previous South Korean governments have sought to stop activists from conducting such campaigns, arguing they did not help advance peace and endangered the safety of residents near the border.

A ban on balloon launches introduced in 2021 was later ruled unconstitutional by a top court, which said it violated freedom of speech.

The two Koreas' large militaries face off across the military border and North Korea routinely threatens to annihilate its neighbour.

Peter Ward, a research fellow at the Sejong Institute, said sending balloons was a far less risky than taking overt military action.

"These kinds of grey zone tactics are more difficult to counter and hold less risk of uncontrollable military escalation, even if they're horrid for the civilians who are ultimately targeted," he said.

Putin Appoints His Ex Bodyguard As Head Of Russia's State Council

MOSCOW, May 29 (Agencies): The Kremlin said on Wednesday that President Vladimir Putin had appointed Alexei Dyumin, an aide and former bodyguard, as secretary of the State Council, an advisory body to the Russian head of state.

After being re-elected for another six-year term earlier this year, Putin made Dyumin an aide specialising in the defence industry and the Kremlin spoke at the time of other responsibilities for him.

A decree signed by Putin appointing him to the State Council role was published on the

Kremlin's website on Wednesday morning.

Sergei Markov, a former Kremlin adviser, said earlier this month that many people believed that Putin saw Dyumin as his successor.

Putin, 71, is embarking on a new six-year term and is expected to rule for years to come and there is no reliable information on who he may favour to one day succeed him.

But the name of Dyumin, among others, has long been the subject of speculation among Moscow's political elite.



Dyumin, 51, was brought into the Kremlin earlier this month after serving as a regional governor of Russia's Tula region.

Dyumin entered Russia's Federal Guards Service (FSO), which

ensures the security of the Kremlin elite, in 1995 and guarded Putin during his first and second terms.

He has also worked as deputy head of the GRU (Russian military intelligence).

Starless, Forever Alone: 7 More Rogue Planets Discovered By Euclid Telescope

PARIS, May 29 (Agencies): The Euclid space telescope has discovered seven more rogue planets, shining a light on the dark and lonely worlds floating freely through the universe untethered to any star. Without being bound to a star, as the Earth is to the Sun, there are no days or years on these planets, which languish in perpetual night.

Yet scientists believe there is a chance they could be able to host life -- and estimate there may be trillions dotted throughout the Milky Way.

Last week the European Space Agency released the Euclid telescope's first scientific results since the mission launched in July.

Among the discoveries were seven new free-floating planets, gas giants at least four times the mass of Jupiter.

They were spotted in the Orion Nebula, the nearest star-forming region to Earth, roughly 1,500 light years away.

Euclid also confirmed the existence of dozens of other previously detected rogue planets.

Spanish astronomer Eduardo Martin, the lead author of a pre-print study published on arXiv.org Friday, said this was likely just the "tip of the iceberg".

Because they do not reflect the light of a star, spotting rogue planets is like "finding a needle in a haystack", Martin told agency.



Younger planets, such as those discovered by Euclid, are hotter, making them a little easier to see.

'Awe and mystery' Some research has suggested there are around 20 rogue planets for every star, which could put their number in the trillions in our home galaxy alone.

Given there are thought to be hundreds of billions of galaxies across the universe, the potential number of free-floating worlds becomes difficult to fathom.

When NASA's Roman space telescope launches in 2027 it is expected find many more rogue planets, possibly offering clarity about how many could be out there.

Gavin Coleman, an astronomer at the Queen Mary University of London who was not involved in the Euclid research, said these strange worlds often evoked "feelings of awe and mystery".

"We've all grown up with the Sun in the sky, and so to think of a planet just drifting throughout space with no star on their horizon is fascinating," he told

agency.

But not all rogue planets wander alone. Four of the more than 20 confirmed by Euclid are believed to be binaries -- two planets orbiting each other in a single system.

Could they host life? If rogue planets are habitable, they could be a key target in humanity's search for extraterrestrial life.

"Some of our closest neighbours are likely rogue planets," Martin said.

Lacking heat from a nearby star, free-floating planets are believed to be cold, with frozen surfaces.

That means any life-supporting energy would have to come from inside the planet.

Most of Neptune's energy comes from within, Coleman pointed out.

And geothermal vents allow animals to survive on Earth that have never seen the Sun's rays.

But even under the best conditions, this extreme isolation would likely be able to support only bacterial and microbial life, Coleman said. Advantage of being

alone Rogue planets could be thought of as traversing a lonely path through the cosmos.

But "being around a star has its downsides", said study co-author Christopher Conselice, professor of extragalactic astronomy at the UK's University of Manchester.

One particular downside comes to mind.

Once the Sun becomes a red giant -- in an estimated 7.6 billion years -- it will greatly expand, swallowing the Earth.

Rogue planets do not have to worry about eventually being destroyed by a star. "These things will last forever," Conselice told agency.

"If you don't mind the cold temperatures you could survive on these planets for eternity."

The Euclid study also offered clues to how rogue planets are created, Conselice said.

Some could be formed in the outer part of a solar system before getting detached from their star and floating away.

But the study indicates that many rogue planets may be created as a "natural byproduct" of the star-formation process, he said.

This suggests a "really close connection between stars and planets and how they form", he said.

"There's no firm answers yet," he added.

Netanyahu frequently makes claims of antisemitism. Critics say he's deflecting from his own problems

TEL AVIV, May 29 (Agencies): After the International Criminal Court's top prosecutor sought arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his defense minister and top Hamas officials, the Israeli leader accused him of being one of "the great antisemites in modern times."

As protests roiled college campuses across the United States over the Gaza war, Netanyahu said they were awash with "antisemitic mobs."

These are just two of the many instances during the war in which Netanyahu has accused critics of Israel or his policies of antisemitism, using fiery rhetoric to compare them to the Jewish people's worst persecutors. But his detractors say he is overusing the label to further his political agenda and try to stifle even legitimate criticism, and that doing so risks diluting the term's meaning at a time when antisemitism is surging worldwide.

"Not every criticism against Israel is antisemitic," said Tom Segev, an Israeli historian. "The moment you say it is antisemitic hate ... you take away all legitimacy from the criticism and try to crush the debate."

There has been a spike in antisemitic incidents since Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, according to researchers. And many Jews in North America and Europe have said they feel unsafe, citing threats to Jewish schools and synagogues and the pro-Palestinian campus demonstrations in the US, although organizers deny that antisemitism drives the protests.

The war has reignited the long debate about the definition of antisemitism and whether any criticism of Israel — from its military's killing of thousands of Palestinian children to questions over Israel's very right to exist — amounts to anti-Jewish hate speech.

Netanyahu, the son of a scholar of medieval Jewish persecution, has long used the travails of the Jewish



people to color his political rhetoric. And he certainly isn't the first world leader accused of using national trauma to advance political goals.

Netanyahu's supporters say he is honestly worried for the safety of Jews around the world. But his accusations of antisemitism come as he has repeatedly sidestepped accountability for not preventing Hamas' Oct. 7 attack. Hamas killed roughly 1,200 people and took 250 hostages, which many in Israel's defense establishment acknowledge they should shoulder the blame for.

Netanyahu has continued to face criticism at home and abroad throughout the war, which has killed 35,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between fighters and non-combatants. The fighting has sparked a humanitarian catastrophe, and ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan has accused Netanyahu and his defense minister of using starvation as a "method of warfare," among other crimes.

Segev, the historian, acknowledged there is a rise in "violent hate" toward Israel and, speaking from Vienna, said he wasn't sure if speaking Hebrew in public was safe. But he said Netanyahu has long used Jewish crises to his political benefit, including invoking the Jewish people's deepest trauma, the Holocaust, to further his goals.

At the height of the campus protests, Netanyahu released a video statement condemning their "unconscionable" antisemitism and comparing the mushrooming encampments on college greens to Nazi Germany of the 1930s.

"What's happening in America's college cam-

puses is horrific," he said.

In response to Khan seeking the arrest warrants, he said the ICC prosecutor was "callously pouring gasoline on the fires of antisemitism that are raging across the world," comparing him to German judges who approved of the Nazis' race laws against Jews.

Netanyahu has compared accusations that Israel's war is causing starvation in Gaza or that the war is genocidal to blood libels — unfounded centuries-old accusations that Jews sacrificed Christian children and used their blood to make unleavened bread for Passover.

"These false accusations are not levelled against us because of the things we do, but because of the simple fact that we exist," he said at a ceremony marking Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day earlier this month.

Netanyahu previously made repeated allusions to the Holocaust while trying to galvanize the world against Iran's nuclear program.

Israeli leaders and the country's media also made such comparisons about Oct. 7, describing the Hamas attackers as Nazis, comparing their rampage to the historic violence inflicted on Eastern European Jews, and referring to the images of Jewish victims' burned bodies as a Shoah — the Hebrew word for Holocaust.

Israelis have been jarred by the global rise in antisemitism, and many view the swell of criticism against Israel as part of the rise. They see hypocrisy in the world's intense focus on Israel's war with Hamas while other conflicts get much less attention.

Moshe Klughaft, a

former advisor to Netanyahu, said he believes the Israeli leader is genuinely concerned over rising antisemitism.

"It is his duty to condemn antisemitism as prime minister of Israel and as head of a country that sees itself as responsible for world Jewry," he said.

Many Israelis view the war in Gaza as a just act of self-defense and are befuddled by what many think should be criticism directed at Hamas — blaming the group for starting the war, using Palestinian civilians as human shields and refusing to free the hostages. The ICC warrant requests have likely bolstered such feelings.

When Netanyahu leans on accusations of antisemitism, he is doing so with the Israeli public in mind, said Reuven Hazan, a political scientist at Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

Hazan said Netanyahu has leveraged the campus protests, for example, to get Israelis to rally around him at a time when his public support has plummeted and Israelis are growing impatient with the war. He said Netanyahu has also used the protests as a scapegoat for his failure so far to achieve the war's two goals: destroying Hamas and freeing the hostages.

"He deflects blame from himself, attributing any shortcomings not to his foreign policies or policies in the (Palestinian) territories, but rather to antisemitism. This narrative benefits him greatly, absolving him of responsibility," Hazan said.

Shmuel Rosner, a senior fellow at the Jewish People Policy Institute, a Jerusalem think tank, rejects the notion that Netanyahu stifles criticism by calling it antisemitic, pointing to just how much criticism the country receives. But he said using the antisemitic label to achieve political ends could cheapen it.

"I'd be more selective than the government of Israel in choosing the people and bodies they tag 'antisemitic,'" he said.

Water crisis at Katra, DC assures early redressal of matter

Top News Report

KATRA, May 29: Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra President Rakesh Wazir discussed in detail the matter of water crisis at Katra with Deputy Commissioner Reasi Vishesh Mahajan and apprised him that Katra is passing through a deep water crisis at the moment and the situation is this that leaving aside the water through department even the hoteliers

are finding it difficult to get water through Tankers even and because out flow of most of the water resources around Katra has reduced drastically or dried up or and as a result the people are forced to bring water from Udhampur from far away places and if the situation is not tackled it would affect Katra vigorously.

Wazir apprised Mahajan that through a concrete solution of the matter is the need of the hour

but for immediate time being redressal of the matter some Tanker filling points be made at Pamote Nallah enroute Katra Narayana, Jhajar river by installation of pumps overthere by the administration and the water can be extracted by making small effort because the water is available at higher water level at Pamaote Nallah and like wise at Jhajar river the water can easily be lifted which even oth-

erwise is getting wasted. Mahajan listened the things patiently and assured that besides long term solution of the matter, an immediate redressal of the situation would remain his priority and as suggested within days the possibility of Pamote Nallah /Jhajar river Water Tankers filling points would be explored and if every thing went well with the combined efforts, the people will find some relief as for as

water crisis is concerned. It is worthwhile to mention here that Katra is experiencing acute water crisis due to scorching summer with a long dry spell of weather, which has caused the drying of major water sources around Katra including almost all of the nallas (streams) which otherwise used to cater Katra as for as water is concerned though may be through water tankers even.

Vi launches 'Vi Guarantee' Program for Smartphone Prepaid Customers

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: Vi, a leading telecom operator, today announced the launch of the 'Vi Guarantee Program', a limited period offer for prepaid users. This new initiative ensures uninterrupted high-speed data for all 5G and new 4G smartphone users.

Under the Vi Guarantee program, Vi users will get 130GB of guaranteed extra data over a period of one year, implying that 10GB of data will be credited to their account automatically on every 28th day for 13 consecutive cycles. To avail this extra data offer, Vi users will need to be on a daily data unlimited plan of Rs 239 and above. The user will be able to use this extra data only once their existing data quotas get exhausted. This offer is valid only for Vi subscribers with

5G smartphones or who have recently upgraded to a new 4G smartphone.

Avneesh Khosla, Chief Marketing Officer at Vodafone Idea Limited said, "In today's digital world, consumers need more data to stay connected, productive, and entertained. The 'Vi Guarantee' program is designed to address this growing demand by providing users with an uninterrupted, high-speed data experience. This initiative underscores our commitment to offering a truly unlimited data experience, ensuring our customers can do more on the internet without worrying about data constraints."

Many smartphone users in India do not maximise the potential of their 4G/5G mobile devices due to a lack of sufficient data. With this offer, users can continue to binge on their favou-

rite content even after their daily quota gets exhausted without any extra cost by using the data from their Vi Guarantee quota.

Vi Guarantee, a limited period offer was thus designed to meet the growing data needs of users and encourage them to explore the full capabilities of their devices for better productivity and connectivity. It is also a testimony of Vi's commitment to solving customer needs and delivering a consistent and reliable data experience.

Vi Guarantee offer is currently available to all 5G and new 4G smartphone users across India except Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and North East and Orissa. To claim the guaranteed data benefit, eligible customers can dial 121199 or *199*199#

GDC Ramgarh, Samba Police organize Intra-College debate competition

Top News Report

RAMGARH, May 29: Government Degree College, Ramgarh in collaboration with District Police, Samba today organized a thought-provoking Intra-College debate competition on the topic "Crime Against Women: Decreasing in 21st Century? The competition was held under the able guidance and leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra, the Principal of the College. While addressing the audience, she appreciated the initiatives and efforts of district police in providing a platform for participants to present diverse perspectives on this critical issue.

Vinay Kumar Sharma, SSP Samba was the chief guest, who in his address highlighted that Crime against women is decreasing but the reporting of these cases has been increased.

He also added that the priority of Police Department would always to punish the criminals who are involved in crime against women.

Moreover he mentioned that it is not always the men who commit crime against women but in

many cases women are also responsible particularly in domestic violence cases.

In his concluding remarks he said that it is the need of an hour to provide moral and value based education to young generation by their parents and teachers.

The other guests present were SDPO Vijaypur Rohit Gupta and SHO Ramgarh Inspector Jasvinder. The jury members comprised of Prof. Ritu Bhagat, Dept. of Education, GDC Vijaypur, Shri Rohit Gupta SDPO Vijaypur and Inspector Jasvinder SHO Ramgarh.

The function started with the lighting of the lamp ceremony. The event was coordinated by Prof. Brahm Dutt, Program Officer, NSS and Dr. Snobar Convener, Literary Club. The total number of 15 students participated in the debate competition. The participants engaged passionately in support and against the motion, showcasing their research backed view points and critical thinking skills. The debate highlighted the contrasting opinions rooted in current societal, legal and cultural con-

texts regarding the prevalence of crimes against women. The participants also highlighted various types of crimes which are present in Indian Society like Rape Cases, Sexual Abuse, Domestic Violence, Molestation, Acid Attacks, Kidnapping, Dowry Deaths, Female Feticides, Restriction on Social and Political Rights, etc.

In the competition, First position was secured by Alisha Meenia, Second position was secured by Babli Choudhary and Third position was secured by Komal Devi. The Cash prizes of Rs. 10000, Rs. 8000 and Rs. 5000 were given to them respectively by District Police Samba. Eight consolation prizes of Rs. 2000 each were also given by them to Jagmeet Kour, Harmandeep Kour, Chahat Tadyal, Bhoomika Sharma, Ritika Manhas, Geetanjali Kumari, Priya Raj Kumari and Tamanna Atri.

In the end vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Snobar Convener, Literary Club, GDC Ramgarh.

The event was attended by all the faculty members and students with great zeal and fervor.

JKAACL organizes cultural program at GDC Marh

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: J&K Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), organized a spectacular Cultural event in association with the Government Degree College (GDC) here on Wednesday. The event highlighted the richness of Dogra culture through a variety of activities presented by the Dogri Department of the college.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Mrs. Reeta Khadyal, Editor of Dogri at JKAACL, who served as the chief guest. The inauguration ceremony commenced with the dignitaries lighting the ceremonial lamp, marking the beginning of the cultural extravaganza. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, Principal, GDC, Marh welcomed the chief guest and the staff of the JKAACL, emphasizing the significance of enriching the Dogri language among the youth. He highlighted the need for the promotion of Dogri at the national level, acknowledging it as a vital vernacular language.

In her inaugural address, Reeta Khadyal said that this event was the vision of Bharat Singh, Secretary, JKAACL to explore talent in the youth. She elaborated on the diverse functions of the JKAACL, which supports 12 languages at the state level. She encouraged students to engage deeply with the Dogri language and culture, emphasizing the academy's efforts in publishing Dogri books. Adding a per-

sonal touch, Khadyal captivated the audience by singing a Dogri song, instilling a renewed confidence and enthusiasm for the language among students and staff.

The event showcased the talents of students through poetry recitation, singing, and drama performances. The chief guest generously announced cash prizes for the participants, facilitated through direct benefit transfer, recognizing their efforts and encouraging future participation.

The event was meticulously organized by the Dogri Department under the leadership of Dr. Sheetal Devi, and the Cultural Committee headed by Dr. Ashu Jolly. Dr. Ruchika Kumari prepared the cultural program, featuring group dances, songs, and poetry recitations, all performed in Dogri. Technical support was provided by Mr. Mohit Kalotra, ensuring the seamless execution of the program.

Participants included talented students Vishali, Shriya, Swety Kaith, Pallavi, and Simran, who delivered outstanding performances. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Sheetal Devi, who expressed gratitude to the college principal for their support and to the JKAACL for their dedication to the promotion of the Dogri language.

The event culminated with a communal lunch, fostering a sense of community and shared cultural pride among students, guests, and faculty.

Abhyuthanam: Day 5 concludes on high note, showcasing vision and aims of NEP 2020

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: The fifth and final day of the Ministry of Education's Academic Leadership Program, Abhyuthanam, concluded with resounding success, marked by insightful discussions and strategic dialogues on the successful realization of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The event, supported by the Government of India, saw enthusiastic participation from academic leaders across the nation.

Prof Vinay Nangia, a renowned mentor and guide for education, business, and startups, commenced the day with a comprehensive overview of the formulation of NEP 2020. He emphasized the policy's transformative potential to reshape India's educational landscape through inclusive learning, innovative pedagogies, and decentral-

ized governance. Prof Nangia underscored the necessity of a collaborative effort among policymakers, educators, and stakeholders for the effective implementation of NEP 2020.

Following his address, Prof Nangia chaired an engaging panel discussion featuring distinguished academics: Prof Ganga Prasad Prasain, Vice Chancellor of Tripura University; Prof Anand Bhalerao, Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Rajasthan; Prof C C Tripathi, Director of NITTTTR Bhopal; and Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi, Vice Chancellor of Central Sanskrit University. The panel deliberated on strategies to cultivate leadership across higher education institutions, focusing on fostering a robust leadership pipeline among all stakeholders.

The valedictory ses-

sion, led by Prof Manoj Gaur, Director of IIT Jammu, provided a fitting conclusion to the five-day program. Prof Gaur urged participants to apply the insights and knowledge gained during the event to enhance their institutions and benefit their communities. He expressed gratitude to all attendees and praised the collaborative spirit that characterized the discussions.

Participants lauded Prof Gaur and his team for their diligent efforts in organizing the event and for creating a valuable platform for networking and addressing critical issues affecting education, research, and national progress.

The successful conclusion of Abhyuthanam reinforces the commitment of academic leaders to drive the vision of NEP 2020 forward, ensuring a brighter and more inclusive future for India's education sector.

GDC Kishtwar organizes Educational Botanical Tour

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 29: The Department of Botany, Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar, under the esteemed patronage of Principal Prof. Basharat Iqbal and the diligent supervision of Head of the Department Prof. Satish Kumar Thakur and Prof. Asma Javaid, successfully organized a botanical tour for the B.Sc Semester-II students.

The educational excursion took place in the temperate region of Singhpora Chatroo, Kishtwar, an area renowned for its rich biodiversity and coniferous trees.

Approximately 50 enthu-

siastic students participated in this insightful trip, where they had the opportunity to explore and study the diverse flora of the region. Notable plant species observed included Cedrus deodara, Pinus walllichiana, Abies pindrow, Juglans regia, Berberis ciliata, along with various herbs.

During the tour, Prof. Satish Thakur emphasized the importance of such field trips in enhancing students' understanding of plant diversity and highlighted the medicinal value of the plants encountered. Prof. Asma Javaid provided in-depth information on the significance and uses of

the various plants found in the area, enriching the students' learning experience.

The tour was further supported by the presence of Dr. Hassan Jaleel, Dr. Deepak Chauhan, Dr. Kulbushan Kumar, Dr. Jameel un Nissa, Rashi, and Jahangir, who contributed their expertise and guidance throughout the excursion.

This botanical tour not only offered practical exposure to the students but also underscored the commitment of Government Degree College Kishtwar to provide comprehensive and experiential learning opportunities in the field of botany.

FROM PAGE 1

"PDP pays for speaking truth to power", Mehbooba on FIR lodged against her

25.05.2024 a huge number of PDP workers led by Madam Mehbooba Mufti assembled in Bijbehara town and raising slogans for releasing the PDP workers which amounted the gross violation of MCC. The huge group of PDP workers also blocked the main road and stage a protest at main spot Bijbehara more than one hour which amounts violations of section 144 CrPC which is imposed in the parliamentary 3-Anatnang-Rajouri Constituency order issued by District Magistrate concerned".

The FIR further mentioned that "As per the section 144 CrPC gathering of four persons are restricted during the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) upto 4 June hence in violation of the order. It is requested that necessary action may initiated under rules against the Madam Mehbooba Mufti along with her workers who are identified by the concerned police authority.

17 points identified for urgent repairs along Jammu-Srinagar National highway

The deputy commissioner said the security

of the pilgrim convoys was also discussed, while it was also decided to enhance the capacity of the 'yatri niwas' at Lamber and activate all facilities for short-stay of pilgrims, tourists and commuters, in case of road closure.

The entire stretch in the Ramban and Banihal sector is prone to landslides, which leads to disruptions on the highway during monsoon season besides the movement of nomads in search of greener pastures for their livestock.

Use of animals to draw vehicles, carry load restricted during afternoons

in scenarios which have the potential to inflict injury and may even result in death of the animals," an official notice from Sachin Kumar Vaishya, District Magistrate Jammu read.

"Whereas, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animals Rules, 1965 provide the legal framework to take preventive measures and stringent action against the offenders violating the provisions of the animal welfare legislations," the notice said.

As per the notice, the order comes into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for two months from the date of its issue or till the order is rescinded, whichever

is earlier.

"In view of the above, under Section 6 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animals Rules, 1965 it is hereby ordered that no person shall use or cause to be used any animal for drawing any vehicle or carrying any load during the period between 12 noon and 03:00 PM. The order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for two months from the date of its issue or till the order is rescinded whichever is earlier," it said.

According to predictions by the IMD, isolated heatwave likely to prevail in the plains of Jammu division for next five days beginning today.

It said that hot and dry weather conditions is likely to prevail in the plains of Kashmir valley and the hilly regions of Jammu division for next two days.

Also, hot and discomfort weather is very likely to prevail over these districts due to high temperature.

Jammu recorded a maximum of 43.6 degree Celsius on Tuesday, which is a departure of 4.5 degree Celsius the normal. At 10 am today the IMD said that minimum recorded temperature in Jammu is 25.3 degree Celsius, which is a departure of 0.1 degree Celsius.

According to a seven day forecast, temperature in Jammu is predicted to be around 44 degree Celsius.

Forest fire incidents on rise in rajouri forest division this summer, 8 incidents reported so far, says official

locations to ensure accessibility, we are alert and taking action actively for the safety of the forest area," he said.

Singh said that when the preceding year sees fewer forest fires, the following year will have more forest fires due to the accumulation of pine needles, which are prone to fire.

BSF opens fire on suspected Pak Drone near LoC in Poonch

11.30 pm on Tuesday, the officials said. They said the troops fired over three dozen rounds on the drone to bring it down.

An alert was sounded and the whole area was put under strict cordon, the officials said, adding that a massive search operation was launched this morning to sanitise the area.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police had announced a cash reward of Rs 3 lakh to anyone informing about a drone flown from across the border with a purpose to drop weapons and narcotics, leading to the recovery of the material.

Police in Baramulla install GPS tracking device on bailed out LeT terror associate

terror accused who are out on bail. By doing so, Kupwara police became the first district in Kashmir Zone to use GPS anklets on a bail-out accused in a case linked to narcotics.

ASJ Court Kupwara, while granting bail in FIR, ordered deploying GPS anklets on accused Abdul Majid Bhat and Aabid Ali Bhat for better surveillance over the movement of the bailees.

In compliance with the court order, the Kupwara Police team led by ASP GM Bhat, Deputy SP Ameen Bhat, and SHO Kupwara Inspector Ishaq deployed the GPS anklets for close monitoring of the accused.

Police cracks theft case in Baramulla; 1 held

suspected person, identified as Imran Ahmad Parry, a resident of Balkote Uri, confessed his involvement in the commission of the crime.

On his disclosure, stolen property, including golden rings, golden ear rings, mobile phones, and cash worth Rs 20,000, were recovered. The accused has been arrested.

Further investigation is going on, police said.

FTA strategy meet: Trade ministry plans steps to prevent overstraining of resources

NEW DELHI, May 29 (Agencies): At a time when the commerce ministry is involved in negotiations on multiple trade deals, a meeting to strategise approach to negotiate free trade agreements (FTA) headed by commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal discussed ways to effectively manage workload and to prevent overstraining of resources, a statement released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry said on Tuesday.

This comes after experts pointed out that opening multiple negotiations might not be an effective strategy at maximising gains as India's FTAs are leading to widening of trade deficit and the negotiators should focus on elimination of non-tariff barriers and better market access in the ser-

vice sector rather than negotiating tariff that often serves the FTA partners not India.

India is currently negotiating an FTA with the UK, European Union and a widening deal with Australia. Moreover, with an eye on narrowing the trade gap, the ministry is reviewing a trade deal with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. During the last couple of years, the ministry completed negotiations with UAE, Mauritius and a mini trade deal with Australia.

"The participants also explored robust resource management strategies and its implementation, to prevent overstraining, and ensure proactive problem-solving thereby providing useful and constructive attributions. The discussions highlighted

that relevant stakeholder consultations are essential for inclusive and supportive outcomes, how the stakeholders provide critical insights and hence continuous outreach to stakeholders is necessary to keep them informed and engaged," the commerce and industry ministry said.

Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi organised a 'Chintan Shivir' on Free Trade Agreement Strategy and standard operating procedures (SoP) for Trade Negotiations from 16 to 17 May 2024 at Neemrana, Rajasthan. Former senior officials, national and international experts in FTA negotia-

tions, academicians, and legal professionals also attended the meet.

"Speakers highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary support noting that successful negotiations require expertise in law, economics, data analytics, and industry specific knowledge and how gathering expert opinions and insights from various sectors enhances the negotiation process. Participants explored ways to utilise the resources of India's embassies or missions abroad, towards leveraging on-ground insights from embassies which would help understand the regulatory regimes of partner countries," the statement read.

The ministry said that the discussions also touched upon changing industrial policy across the globe that is shifting the con-

tours of trade deals. The members noted that the global trend towards partial de-globalisation and the use of industrial policy as a "cover for protectionism, and geopolitics" now play equally an influential role that of geoeconomics in shaping trade policies, the ministry said.

Suggestions were made that India should use FTAs to build resilient supply chains, focus on capacity building and interdisciplinary expertise, and adapt to the current trend of partial de-globalisation and geopolitical influences. "India should negotiate a dedicated chapter on Critical Minerals or Critical Minerals-based agreements specially with such mineral-rich countries to protect India from abrupt disruption in supply chain," the ministry said.

Paytm says not selling stake to Adani Group, dismisses reports as 'speculative'

NEW DELHI, May 29 (Agencies): Paytm shares hit 5 per cent upper circuit during the morning trade on Wednesday after the fintech major clarified that there were no talks between its CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma and Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani.

Paytm stock touched 359.55 in the early trade following the company's clarification. "We hereby clarify that the above-mentioned news item is speculative and the company is not engaged in any discussions in this regard. We have always made and will continue to make disclosures in compliance with our obligations under the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Require-

ments) Regulations, 2015," Paytm stated. Earlier a Times of India report, citing sources, claimed that Sharma met Adani on May 28 to "finalise contours of a deal".

Paytm Founder Sharma has 9.1 per cent stake in Paytm in his personal capacity besides 10.3 per cent through Resilient Asset Management, a foreign entity, as per figures from March end.

On May 22, Paytm parent company One97 Communications announced its earnings report for the March quarter, saying it recorded a reduction in revenue and its consolidated net loss widened in the last three months of FY24. The

fintech major's consolidated net loss widened to Rs 549.60 crore in the fourth quarter from Rs 219.8 crore in the quarter ended December. The consolidated net loss in the same quarter in 2023 was Rs 168.9 crore.

The revenue from operations saw a 3 per cent Year-on-Year dip to Rs 2,267.1 crore against Rs 2,334.5 crore in the March 2023 quarter.

In February, RBI barred Paytm's banking arm Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) from accepting deposits or other transactions in accounts, wallets and Fastags. The company had earlier said it suffered a Rs 300-500 crore loss due to the curbs by the central bank.

Stock markets fall in early trade ahead of polls results



MUMBAI, May 29 (Agencies): Benchmark equity indices declined in early trade on Wednesday, continuing to fall for the fourth day running, amid profit-taking by investors who are opting for a cautious approach ahead of the Lok Sabha polls' results.

Weak cues from Asian markets also added to the negative trends in equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 416.1 points to drop below the 75,000-mark to 74,754.35. The NSE Nifty

dropped 125.9 points to 22,762.25.

From the Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank were the biggest laggards.

Bharti Airtel, Tata Steel, Power Grid and State Bank of India were among the gainers.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong were quoting lower while Shanghai traded with gains.

US markets ended on a mixed note on Tuesday.

"The nervousness in the market continues with uncertainty regarding the election results," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

The last phase of polling is scheduled for June 1. The results of the ongoing general elections will be declared on June 4.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.21 per cent to USD 84.40 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 65.57 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

After gyrating between gains and losses during the day on Tuesday, the BSE benchmark finally ended 220.05 points or 0.29 per cent lower at 75,170.45. The NSE Nifty dropped 44.30 points or 0.19 per cent to settle at 22,888.15.

RBI launches retail direct mobile app, fintech repository

NEW DELHI, May 29 (Agencies): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Tuesday launched three major initiatives – PRAVAAH portal, the retail direct mobile app and a fintech repository.

PRAVAAH (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation and Authentication) is a secure and centralised web-based portal for any individual or entity to seek authorisation, license or regulatory approval on any reference made by it to the RBI. At present, 60 application forms covering different regulatory and supervisory departments of RBI have been made available on the portal.

The retail direct mobile app will provide retail

investors a seamless and convenient access to the retail direct platform and provide ease of transacting in government securities (G-Secs). The RBI launched the retail direct portal in November 2021 to facilitate investment in government securities by individual investors. With the launch of the retail direct mobile app, retail investors can now transact in G-Secs using the mobile app on their smartphones, the regulator said in a release.

The regulator said the fintech repository will contain information on Indian fintech firms for a better understanding of the sector from a regulatory perspective and facilitate in designing appropriate policy approaches.

Adani Enterprises board okays raising up to Rs 16,600 crore via QIP

MUMBAI, May 29 (Agencies): Adani Enterprises on Tuesday received board approval to raise Rs 16,600 crore through the qualified institutional placement (QIP) route. In a filing to exchanges, the Adani Group's flagship company said that the board of directors has approved raising of funds by the way of 'issuance of such number of equity shares having face value of Re 1 each of the Company and / or other eligible securities or any combination, for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 16,600 crore or an equivalent amount thereof by way of QIP or other permissible mode in one or more tranches'.

QIP is a method by which listed companies raise funds by issuing equities to qualified institutional buyers. The

fund raising announcement by Adani Enterprises comes a day after another group company — Adani Energy Solutions received approval from its board to raise Rs 12,500 crore through QIP route. The stock price of Adani Enterprises closed at Rs 3,244.35 apiece, down 1.33 per cent, on the BSE. In February 2023, Adani Enterprises had called off its fully subscribed Rs 20,000 crore follow on public offer (FPO) and announced to return the money to the investors. The FPO was called off after the US-based Hindenburg Research on January 23 released a report alleging the group of brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud, which the conglomerate denied.

Following the release of the Hindenburg report, shares of Adani Group

companies came under heavy selling pressure on the stock exchanges. All the listed companies of the Group crashed in the range of 30-80 per cent.

However, stock prices of Adani Enterprises and Adani Ports have now erased the losses caused by the Hindenburg report.

Adani Ports has risen over 80 per cent from pre-Hindenburg report levels. In the quarter ended March 31, 2024, Adani Enterprises profit after tax (attributable to owners) dropped 39 per cent to Rs 449 crore from Rs 735 crore in the year-ago period. For fiscal 2024, its profit after tax rose 31 per cent to Rs 3,240 crore as compared to Rs 2,464 crore in FY23.

Its total income marginally rose 1 per cent to Rs 29,630 crore from Rs 29,311 crore in the quarter ended March 2023.

KVK Reasi educates farmers on scientific cultivation of maize crop

Top News Report

REASI, May 29: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Jammu (SKUAST-J) educated farmers on scientific cultivation of maize crop here today at Malad village in Reasi district of J&K which was enthusiastically attended by a number of farmers of the area.

The programme was organised under the dynamic stewardship of Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension (DE), Prof. Amrish Vaid of SKUAST-J. The programme was initiated by Dr. Banarsi Lal, Sr. Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi with the warm welcome of the

farmers. He started the programme with the brief objectives of Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) especially on maize crop and elaborated the scientific technologies by which farmers can increase the maize production.

He discussed on the hybrid varieties of maize crop for more farm returns. He suggested the farmers for the use of maize hybrids and gave a detail view on scientific cultivation of maize crop. He further added that Front Line Demonstrations signify the technologies by which farmers can get maximum yield from per unit area per unit time.

He suggested the farmers that every year they should purchase new

certified seed of maize hybrids and informed them to use only the recommended varieties for the district. He emphasized on line sowing in maize crop by which weeding/hoeing in maize crop becomes easier which further helps to increase the maize production.

He suggested the proper spacing between plant-to-plant and line-to-line in maize crop. He motivated the farmers for the commercial maize farming. He also guided farmers on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and Integrated Weed Management (IWM) in maize crop for maximum yields. He also stressed on seed treatment in maize crop. He informed the farmers that the maize crop is

sensitive to the moisture stress and moisture excessive conditions and suggested the farmers they should drain the water from maize fields.

The scientist elaborated important insect-pests and diseases in maize crop and gave their remedial measures. He stressed on the timely management of blister beetle and fall armyworm in maize crop to obtain maximum results.

During the programme an awardee woman farmer Bimla Devi was also present. In this programme various queries were asked by the farmers which KVK officials answered in a satisfactory way. The programme was concluded by Manohar Lal with the formal vote of thanks.

Magic mushrooms may one day treat anorexia, but not just yet

NEW DELHI, May 29 (Agencies): Anorexia nervosa is a severe mental health disorder where people fear weight gain. Those with the disorder have distorted body image and hold rigid beliefs their body is too big. They typically manage this through restricted eating, leading to the serious medical consequences of malnutrition.

Anorexia has one of the highest death rates of any mental illness. Yet there are currently no effective drug treatments and the outcomes of psychotherapy (talk therapy) are poor. So we're desperately in need of new and improved treatments.

Psilocybin, commonly known as magic mushrooms, is one such novel treatment. But while it shows early promise, you won't see it used in clinical practice just yet more research is needed to test if it's safe and effective.

What does treatment involve?

The treatment involves the patient taking a dose of psilocybin in a safe environment, which is usually specifically set up clinic. The patient undergoes preparation therapy before the dosing session and integration therapy after.

Psilocybin, extracted from mushrooms, is a psychedelic, which means it can produce altered thinking, sense of time and emotions, and can often result in hallucinations. It also has

the potential to shift patients out of their rigid thinking patterns.

Psilocybin is not administered alone but instead with combined structured psychotherapy sessions to help the patient make sense of their experiences and the changes to their thinking. This is an important part of the treatment.

What does the research show?

Research has shown improved effects of psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy after one or two dosing sessions, a couple of weeks apart. Most research to date has targeted depression.

Psilocybin has been found to increase cognitive flexibility our ability to adjust our thinking patterns according to changing environments or demands. This is one of the ways researchers believe psilocybin might improve symptoms for conditions such as depression and alcohol use disorder, which are marked by rigid thinking styles.

People with anorexia similarly struggle with rigid thinking patterns. So researchers and clinicians have recently turned their attention to anorexia.

In 2023, a small pilot study of ten women with anorexia was published in the journal Nature Medicine. It showed psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy (with 25mg of psilocybin) was safe and acceptable. There were no significant side effects and

participants reported having valuable experiences.

Although the trial was not a formal efficacy trial, 40 per cent of the patients did have significant drops in their eating disorder behaviour.

However, the trial only had one dosing session and no long-term follow up, so further research is needed.

A recent animal study using rats examined whether rigid thinking could be improved in rats when given psilocybin. After the psilocybin, rats gained weight and had more flexible thinking (using a reversal learning task). These positive changes were related to the serotonin neurotransmitter system, which regulates mood, behaviour and satiety (feeling full).

Brain imaging studies in humans show serotonin disturbances in people with anorexia. Psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy is showing promise at modifying the serotonin disturbances and cognitive inflexibility that have been shown to be problematic in anorexia.

Research with animals can provide unique insights into the brain which can sometimes not be investigated in living humans. But animal models can never truly mimic human behaviour and the complex nature of chronic mental health conditions.

What's next for research?

Further clinical trials in

humans are very much needed and are underway from a research team at the University of Sydney and ours at Swinburne.

Our trial will involve an initial 5mg dose followed by two subsequent doses of 25mg, several weeks apart. An initial low dose aims to help participants prepare for what is likely to be a new and somewhat unpredictable experience.

Our trial will examine the usefulness of providing psychotherapy that directly addresses body image disturbance. We are also investigating if including a family member or close friend in the treatment increases support for their loved one.

Data from other mental health conditions has suggested that not everyone sees benefits, with some people having bad trips and a deterioration in their mental health. So this treatment won't be for everyone. It's important to work out who is most likely to respond and under what conditions.

New trials and those underway will be critical in understanding whether psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy is a safe and effective treatment for anorexia, and the optimal conditions to improve the patient's response. But we are some way off from seeing this treatment in the clinic. One of the big issues being the cost of this intervention and how this will be funded.

District-level Inter-School Tournament held

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 29: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Office (DYSS) of Udhampur has commenced its renowned District-level Inter-School Tournament / Inter-zonal tournament at the Subash Stadium, Udhampur.

The grandiose event is being overseen by Joint Director YSS Ved Parkash and DYSSO Udhampur, Romesh Chander Mishra, whose scrupulous supervision ensures the epitome of excellence.

Amidst the ongoing Kabaddi U14 boys matches at the Subash Stadium, DYSSO Udhampur Romesh Chander Mishra, gracing the occasion as the chief guest, engaged with the children/participants of the

district, totaling 134 from various zones. Emphasizing the imperative of mitigating the effects of intense heat waves through adequate hydration, Mishra expressed gratitude to CMO Udhampur for providing medical facilities for the participants.

The Kabaddi officials, including Rakesh Kumar (convener), Pushap Kumar, Rakesh Sawhney, Rakesh Khajuria, Kulbushan Kumar, Ranjeet Singh, Angrez Singh, Ram Kumar, Sandeep Verma, Roshni Gupta, and Arti, along with the registration committee chaired by Ravinder Manhas, have ensured smooth operations.

The field staff, comprising Jaswinder Singh, Anshu Brat Khanna, and Vipran Photra, alongside the diligent office staff, led by Anita

Goswami, overall in-charge of the tournament, Som Dev Khajuria, Ramesh Chander, Sanjeev Kumar, Vikas Sharma, Jatin Sethi, Ghanem Akhter, Abdul Qadir, Sanjeev Khajuria, and Meenakshi Sharma, have been instrumental in orchestrating this prestigious event.

In the Kabaddi U14 boys category, Zone Jib emerged as the winner while Zone Panchari secured the runner-up position, with a match clinched by a remarkable 14-point margin.

Moreover, DYSSO Udhampur extends its appreciation to the REK department employees Vipran Photra, Deepak Sharma, Sourabh Pandit, Sanjeev Khajuria, Anshu Khanna and Vishal Sharma, a former Kabaddi national player.

Last dance: Final chance for Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma to give India an ICC World Cup Trophy after 13 years

For the fans, this World Cup would be about drinking it in as much as they can because once this duo leaves the stage, there will be an immense emptiness

BENGALURU, May 29 (Agencies): It's tough to find two cricketers who are so different from each other yet so closely intertwined by the same thread of fate as Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

Rohit's initiation into top-flight cricket came at the idyllic Belfast in 2007 and Kohli's a year later at the more conventional Dambulla. Another intriguing chapter of this journey together will potentially come to an end next month in the stunning Caribbean Isles.

The next T20 World Cup is in 2026, to be jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka, but Rohit would be touching 40 then and Kohli would be 38. The 50-over version is a further one year away.

It's hard to see them playing in any of those, considering the increasingly strike-rate oriented nature of the game.

So, both Rohit and Kohli will want to leave the stage with the winner's medal around their neck next month. Should they achieve that, it would be their second each after the 2007 T20 World Cup (Rohit) and the 2011 50-over showpiece (Kohli).

And it will be a perfect send off for two players who have had an immeasurable impact on India's white-ball fortunes in the last 17 years.

However, the Kohli-Rohit story is not one of bromance.

It's based more on mutual respect and the awareness that they should not step into each other's space.

Kohli has talked about the admiration he has had for Rohit since the very beginning of their careers.

"I was filled with curiosity about a player. People kept on



saying – 'This is one player who is rising rapidly'. I used to wonder that even though I am a young player, no one talks about me, then who is this player.

"But when he (Rohit) stepped out to bat, I was all quiet. It was amazing to watch him play. In fact, I haven't seen a player time the ball better than him," Kohli had said in 'Breakfast With Champions'.

Contrasting in nature, their batting has been high art for the masses to which they added a dash of modernity later.

Of the two, Kohli is the more all-format batter, who has adapted fluently with the changing face of the game.

He has scored in every corner of the cricketing world in a show of consistency that was rarely witnessed after the halcyon days of Sachin Tendulkar.

While Rohit built his own edifices in white-ball formats, the Mumbai-man remained a reluctant visitor in Test cricket's elite corridors for the better part of

his career.

A move up to the opener's role helped Rohit unshackle himself a bit in Tests in the later part of his career.

But for now, Kohli and Rohit will have to lean on their vast experience in T20 cricket to fuel India's run in the World Cup.

Rohit will certainly open and if his approach in last year's World Cup and in the just-concluded IPL can be taken as a sign, the skipper will continue his selfless and aggressive approach.

Herein, Rohit has an inherent advantage. His natural big-hitting abilities will help him pursue his batsmanship without many improvisations.

That one-legged pull of his is a cosy meeting point between elegance and malevolence.

But Kohli's game is slightly different. He can pull off those occasional big hits – a swat-flick six or a flat-bat smash over bowler's head. A quick rewind to his pick-up shot off Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf during the 2022 T20 World Cup will vouch

for that.

Still, there is a sore point.

Kohli has often struggled to score off spin, especially against the left-arm variety. His career strike-rate against slow bowlers hovers around mid-120s in T20s.

Several times, it has impeded his progress in the middle innings but during this year's IPL, he seemed to have found a solution.

He brought out the slog-sweep against spinners. It had a healthy influence on his strike-rate as Kohli made 260 runs from 188 balls and struck 15 sixes against them.

His strike-rate against spin touched 139, a marked improvement from his overall IPL strike-rate of 124.

"It was me mentally putting myself in that situation. I did not practice that at all," he explained.

"I know I can hit it because I have played that shot a lot in the past. So, I just felt like I needed to take a bit more risk," Kohli said of his new approach against spin.

This might come in handy for him in the T20 World Cup where the pitches are expected to become progressively slow, increasingly bringing spinners into the game.

Beyond the realm of cricket, the two veterans' final charge at an ICC trophy—personally and for the team—would be a captivating sight.

For the fans, this World Cup would be about drinking it in as much as they can because once this duo leaves the stage, there will be an immense emptiness.

Only Jasprit Bumrah is executing yorkers consistently: Brett Lee

NEW DELHI, May 29 (Agencies): Legendary Australia speedster Brett Lee feels apart from Jasprit Bumrah, pacers are failing to nail yorkers effectively in the death overs and he wants them to master the pivotal delivery.

Bumrah is one of the most complete bowlers in world cricket at the moment. He can bowl wicket-taking deliveries without leaking runs but the most lethal weapon in his armoury is his toe-crushing yorker, which he, more often than not, executes perfectly in the death overs.

"On a general rule, other than Bumrah, we haven't seen enough fast bowlers nailing their yorkers recently."

"I want to see fast bowlers bowl more yorkers. I still don't reckon they execute enough yorkers at the death," Lee said at the launch of the Legends Inter-continental T20 league recently.

"With the recently concluded IPL featuring scores in excess of 200 regularly, Lee believes the fast bowlers would be more economical had they nailed yorkers."

"If you look back at 17 years of Indian Premier League, on average a yorker goes for a strike rate of less than 100. Which tells me that one run or less per bowler that's executed."

"Now, when you bowl a yorker and you've got guys who can go down and scoop you over the head, well that puts pressure on you as a bowler."

"You've got to set in the right field and put

two men back, third man fine and back and then bowl," Lee added.

As T20 cricket progresses, the game is tilting more and more towards the batters. With the 'Impact Player Rule' and flat decks, bowlers struggled in the IPL.

Lee, like several other former players, called for a balance between bat and ball.

"I'm all for batters smoking the ball all over, but there has got to be something for the bowlers too. I'm not asking for a green top, where teams get bowled out for 110, because that's not good for cricket either."

"You want a good total, I think. Anywhere around that 185 mark to 230 is a good score. We've seen scores now of 265, 270, 277."

"It's really hard because most bowlers now are going for 45 to 50 off their four overs," he said.

David Warner has earned the right to go on his own terms

Australia's charismatic young batter Jake Fraser-McGurk set the stage ablaze in his debut IPL season with many calling for his inclusion in Australia's T20 World Cup squad.

However, the selectors decided to go with veteran opener David Warner, who is set to retire after the tournament, Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh in the top-order.

McGurk, who is a top order batter and Warner's Delhi Capitals teammate, though has been named as a travelling reserve.

"David Warner has earned that right to go out on his own terms. And if things don't happen for whatever reason, then he's (McGurk) definitely there to take part," Lee said.

Although Warner did not have a particularly great IPL as he missed several matches due to an injury, the southpaw has scored 834 runs in T20 cricket since 2021 at a strike rate of around 150.

He was woefully out of form ahead of the 2021 T20 World Cup but ended up being the player of the tournament, playing a vital role in Australia's maiden World Cup win in the shortest format.

On the other hand, 22-year-old McGurk, who was called in as a replacement for Lungi Ngidi at Delhi Capitals, gave an excellent display of explosive batsmanship, smashing four half-centuries in nine games at an astronomical strike rate exceeding 234. "I think if you go over there as a reserve batsman, you definitely have a chance to get an opportunity."

"That happened this year with the Delhi Capitals, he wasn't even picked in the squad."

"Ricky Ponting rang him up late night and said come in as they had a few injuries. So right time, right place."

"But the advice to him, and he articulated it beautifully to say that he's only 22 years of age (araam se araam se). He's got time. There's no point rushing it," Lee said.

Sachin Tendulkar likely to be present in India vs Pakistan game in New York

NEW DELHI, May 29 (Agencies): The Rohit Sharma-led Indian cricket team will have a very special person supporting them as the legendary Sachin Tendulkar is expected to be present during their marquee T20 World Cup clash against arch-rivals Pakistan in New York on June 9. According to a source close to ICC, 51-year-old Tendulkar, who is associated with a brand that is one of the key sponsors of the global body, will be in attendance at the Nassau County ground in the outskirts of New York, which is expected to be full on that particular morning.

"Yes, if all goes well, Sachin will be watching the match in New York and cheering the Indian team," a source working closely with the ICC told agency on conditions of anonymity.

"It is still not known if he would meet the players prior to the game or not but his mere presence in the stands will certainly be a morale booster for Rohit Sharma and his men in what will be the most important group league assignment."

Tendulkar, inarguably the greatest ever Indian cricketer to grace interna-



tional cricket still tops the run-scoring charts in both Tests and ODI cricket. He has played six 50-over World Cups between 1992 and 2011. He has earlier also been a 'Brand Ambassador' of ICC during the 2015 ODI World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

Majority of the Indian players have reached New York ahead of their warm-up game against Bangladesh on June 1. The team has started light training after a couple of days of rest. Vice captain Hardik Pandya has already shared images from New York where the team can be seen going for a light jog.

Before that, India players Suryakumar Yadav, Shivam Dube and Arshdeep Singh had taken to the streets of New York for some sightseeing. The trio had even clicked photos with fans.

Sunil Chhetri posts emotional message on Instagram ahead of final match for India

NEW DELHI, May 29 (Agencies): India football team captain Sunil Chhetri is set to retire on June 6. India's FIFA World Cup qualification match against Kuwait will be Chhetri's final outing with the national team and it will bring curtains to a storied career. Chhetri, who has the fourth-highest goal in the history of international matches took to Instagram to share a powerful message with his fans.

Chhetri in his message said that every training session from here on carries a deep meaning for him and that he was indebted to the sport of football and the Indian national team.

"These last few days, I've been caught in a bit of a dilemma. Now that there's a number to my



days with the National Team, what's the right route to take - do I count every day, every training session? Or do I simply turn up without the thought of how this is coming to an end?" Sunil Chhetri wrote on Instagram.

Chhetri has played 150 matches for India, scoring 94 goals in a career spanning nearly 20 years. Sunil Chhetri will hang up his boots in the city where he began his

top-flight football career for Mohun Bagan. Chhetri went on to become one of the most influential Indian footballers, with the most caps for India.

"Over time, I seemed to have found middle ground. They say, count your blessings. And every single day I get to be on the pitch is a blessing that I've never taken for granted. So I've decided to count my sessions, but with a

deep sense of gratitude. There's no apprehension. Instead, there's a feeling of being indebted to the sport, to my team, that I get to do this," he further added.

"If I could, I would capture this feeling in a box. Or instead, I'll take it to my next training session," Chhetri concluded his post.

The legendary footballer had announced his retirement via a 10-minute long video on Instagram expressing his gratitude to the sport and the fans. Head coach Igor Stimac had hoped that Indian fans would pack the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata for Sunil Chhetri's final international match.

"I am sure that our supporters will reach Kolkata from all parts of India to help our boys win the

game and say thanks and goodbye to Sunil. I am very confident it's going to be emotional and hopefully, we will find a way to celebrate together after the final whistle," he said in a release from the All India Football Federation. The team has been in training camp here for about two weeks. The first week was primarily about increasing fitness as the players approached the finish of a demanding season. It consisted of many physical exams and aerobic exercises. "The boys are doing well. It has been proven more than once that a long camp always helps us. We are working on various aspects of the game, both offensive and defensive," the head coach had said via an AIFF press release.

"Gonna Be Fun": Ravindra Jadeja On Playing In New York For First Time

NEW YORK, May 29 (Agencies): Following Team India's first training session ahead of their ICC T20 World Cup opening clash, star allrounder Ravindra Jadeja said it will be fun playing cricket in New York. The ICC T20 World Cup will be played in the West Indies and the USA from June 1 to 29. Men in Blue will also play Bangladesh in their only warm-up game on June 1 at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New

York. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) took to their official social media handle and shared and shared a glimpse of their first training session in the US.

In the video, Jadeja sounded hopeful before the start of the mega tournament.

"First time we gonna play cricket in New York, it's gonna be fun," Jadeja said in the video. The strength and conditioning coach of Team India Soham Desai said

the players have eased their routines after reaching New York.

"We came in the day before yesterday and we just eased into our routines here, the players are just getting used to the time zone. Today we are having our first ground session..." Soham said.

Meanwhile, India pacer Jasprit Bumrah said, "We have not yet played cricket, came here for a team activity today. Hopefully, it will be good. The weather is



really good, so we are looking forward to it."

The Men in Blue vice-captain and allrounder Hardik Pandya said,

"Very exciting to be here in New York, has a good vibe, bright sun out."

"I heard the cricket is growing here in the US,

so we are really excited and the first day here was amazing, so very excited for the few days coming up," Suryakumar Yadav further added.

India will start their T20 World Cup campaign on June 5 against Ireland at the newly constructed Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York.

Meanwhile, the most-awaited blockbuster clash between India and Pakistan will take place on June 9. They will later play tournament

co-hosts USA (June 12) and Canada (June 15) to wrap up their Group A matches.

In the tournament, India will be aiming to end their ICC trophy drought, having last won the ICC Champions Trophy in 2013. Since then, India has reached the 50-over World Cup final in 2023, semifinal in 2015 and 2019, the title clash of the ICC World Test Championship in 2021 and 2023, T20 WC final in 2014, semifinals in 2016 and 2022

but failed to secure a big ICC trophy.

India squad: Rohit Sharma (C), Hardik Pandya (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj

Reserves: Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, Khaleel Ahmed and Avesh Khan.

Lecturers' Forum calls on Singla, pitches for prompt action on regularisation

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: A High power delegation of All J&K +2 Lecturers' Forum comprising of RS Salathia, Chairman and Pardeep Singh Rakwal, President and others today called on Dr Piyush Singla, worthy Administrative Secretary, School Education Department at Civil Secretariat Jammu.

The delegation expressed gratitude to Singla on behalf of all members of +2 cadre for granting one-time exemption in permissions for pursuing PG degrees during service to its members. During the meeting, Singla said that the department had received a large no.

of one-time exemption cases from Kashmir Directorate but despite lapse of considerable time, only a small number of such files have come from Jammu Directorate which has been taken seriously by him. Singla further said that he is committed to fulfill the promise of regularisation expeditiously in near future.

The delegation also raised the issue of filling of all vacant posts of Principals by promoting senior lecturers so that schools could get their heads for implementation of all activities of the department including full implementation of New Education Policy 2020 in a time-bound manner in the interest of

student community.

The forum urged Singla for Simplification of process of issuance of NDC in favour of retiring officers so that they are not put to hardships at the verge of retirement. To this demand, the Administrative Department assured that he would go for Simplification of process of issuance of NDC.

Meanwhile the forum has expressed deep concern for undue delay in submission of one-time exemption files by Directorate of School Education Jammu despite the fact that they fulfill all the conditions as laid down in one-time exemption order. They have requested

DSE Jammu, Askok Kumar Sharma to intervene personally into the matter as the career of thousands of I/C lecturers is at stake for no fault of theirs.

District President, All J&K +2 Lecturers' Forum Kishtwar, Pardeep Koul, in a statement has expressed his unhappiness over withholding of salaries Hols/DDOs/ ZEO of Kishtwar District on the pretext that 143 no. of Schools of District were not registered on JK Attendance App and their officials were not marking their attendance on the said portal. He said that all schools of the District are registered on JK Attendance App but most of these schools

fall in no-internet area, the officials are unable to mark their attendance on the App. The forum has requested Director School Education Jammu, Ashok Kumar Sharma to take action against the officers/officials on whose reports such action was taken. How can an official mark his/her attendance on JK Attendance App when the school has no internet coverage, questioned the forum. The forum said that DNO / ZNOs concerned should have been consulted and reports sought from them before taking such an action which is unjustified. The forum has requested Administrative Secretary for his intervention.

KPs participation in ongoing Parliament elections, a remarkable step: Pandita

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: It is historical after Exodus of Kashmiri Pandits that they exercised their right of franchise remarkably in the ongoing Parliamentary elections in the union Territory of J&K and outside for the first time in last more than thirty four years.

In a statement issued today, socio Political activist Vinod Pandita has said that with the significant participation of Kashmiri Pandits in first 6 phases of voting in ongoing parliament elections indicates that not only they have realised the importance of casting their votes but also their involvement in making J&K, one of the

most progressive part of the country.

He also appreciated the role of Election Commission of India in facilitating the process of easing certain ways and means for exercising the right of their franchise quite smoothly.

Pandita further added that this will surely have a larger impact on the ensuing Assembly elections of J&K as the vote bank of Kashmiri Pandits will prove a significant and decisive role in various Assembly segments of J&K as well will strengthen the base of democracy.

He also appealed the concerned authorities to ensure that all left out KP voters are registered before coming

assembly Elections so that their en-mass participation is ensured in the coming assembly elections and other elections over all figure of KP voters will surely get increased from one to two lakhs.

Pandita opined that various political parties would be watching this significant development of Kashmiri Pandits participating in the current Parliamentary elections and they may sponsor candidates among KP community in the ensuing Assembly elections for which the community social organizations must get united under one umbrella which has now become the need of the hour for achieving their political objective.

Curse of four Shankar Acharyas showing colours: AAP

Top News Report

JAMMU May 29: The Senior AAP leaders, Deep Singh, Founder & National Council Member, Maj General Retd, R.S. Jamwal, Farooq Ahmed Banday, Ram Singh Chauhan, S.S. Jamwal, Nirmal Mahna, Agya Kour, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Amit Langer, Ram Pal Khajuria, Romesh Lal Bhagat, Ranjodh Singh, Ghulam Nabi Khan, Sandeep Singh Parihar and Sham Lal Thakur, in a joint statement issued here said that the top leaders of BJP sensing debacle in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections after the 6th round of polling, are now talking ups and down, in a fit of desperations, quite irrelevant and illogically clear show that the curse of four Hindu religious Heads- Shankar Acharyas given to BJP at the time of Pran Pratishtha of Ram Temple in Ayodhya, that it is a bad omen for the ruling dispensation, is coming

true and being witnessed by the countrymen and the world.

They further said that the unmindful statement of BJP spokes person, Sambit Patra that Lord Jagan Nath has also become the disciple of Narendra Modi, is clearly disrespect and insult to Sanatan Dharam, which shows frustration and desperation of BJP leadership.

Some have even gone to the extent of terming MODI as the true incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the AAP leaders maintained and asserted that it is the manifestation shown to the four Heads-the Shankar Acharyas coming true the signs of which are coming before the countrymen.

The more astonishing is the statement of Modi himself that he is not a product of biological process but sent by GOD himself, they wondered.

The AAP leaders further said that destroying of Constitutional Institu-

tions, auctioning public owned units to friendly Industrialists, bribing Supreme Court of India Judges to be nominated as Rajya Sabha Members, silencing electronic and print Media, enacting most obnoxious and anti-farmer laws and later on nullifying the same, remaining mum over Manipur - Hathras like heinous crimes and episodes, allowing unbridled price rise on kitchen by imposing irrational GST, letting lose the reign of terror through ED, CBI & IT in case of opposition leaders etc are driving the country for a unitary system of governance which is very harmful for the countrymen and dangerous for the unity and integrity of the country. In fact, the ruling Party is working on the policy to keep 95% people poor and 5% wealthy to fund and rule which is very dangerous for unity and integrity of Country, the AAP leaders cautioned.

Councilor Sahil visits temple, seeks blessings



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 29: Bharatiya Janata Party Leader and Corporator Sahil Gupta from MC Bishnah today along with ASI Naresh Digra Visited in Temple at Village Kukar and bowed his head and took blessings.

Sahil Gupta took blessings of all the elderly people there and held discussions while sitting in the temple.

On the occasion of

"Murti Sthapana" in the temple, Sahil Gupta said that he is very happy that he is sitting in the temple on such an occasion. He thanked the members of the temple committee and also took prasad in the temple.

Manga Ram, Krishna Lal, Naresh Bittu, Yashpal Dablehar, Bittu Baba, Dr. JP Kundal, Sikandar Lal, ASI Naresh Digra, Rohit Kumar, Tushar Digra and many dignitaries were present in the program.

Model United Nations held at SPPND GDC Samba



Top News Report

SAMBA, May 29: Department of Political Science of SPPND Government Degree College Samba in collaboration with Tagore Peace Club organized a stimulating Model United Nations event to commemorate International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members.

The MUN conference brought together passionate students from Major Political Science

who assumed the roles of delegates representing different countries to simulate the workings of the United Nations.

Through intense debates, negotiations and resolutions, the participants addressed pressing global challenges, particularly focusing on ways to promote and sustain peace worldwide.

With the theme of "Building Bridges for a Sustainable Peace", the conference aimed to foster critical thinking, diplomatic teamwork among the youth, equipping them with the necessary skills to become future leaders

and advocates for peace.

Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the college emphasized the importance of such initiatives in shaping the minds of young individuals and inspiring them to work towards a more peaceful and harmonious world. She commended the participants for their active engagement and constructive contributions throughout the conference.

The event served as a reminder of the selfless efforts made by peacekeepers to ensure stability in conflict-prone regions and uphold human rights.

Manjit Singh seeks long term policy to deal with dry spell in Kandi Belt



Top News Report

PARMANDAL (SAMBA), May 29: Apni Party Provincial President, Jammu, and Former Minister, S. Manjit Singh today demanded regular clean drinking water supply in drought hit Kandi belt amid the severely heat wave affected areas in Parmandal in Samba District.

A meeting was organized by the Party leaders at Gurgani village in Parmandal to discuss the problems being faced by the people of Kandi belt.

The people informed the Former Minister that the concerned department of Jal Shakti has failed to ensure supply of clean drinking water in the above said village,

and other areas falling in Kandi belt.

While speaking on the occasion, S. Manjit Singh assured them that he would highlight their concern before the Jal Shakti Department.

He, however, expressed deep concern over the inhuman attitude of the concerned authorities for their inability to supply drinking tap water to the people in Kandi belt, especially when the region is facing dry spell amid heat wave that has put normal life out of gear.

He said that the Kandi belt is suffering because of the irregular drinking water supply and the supply often takes over after over a week that leads to more problems.

Similarly, the people in

Kandi belt are affected due to the unscheduled power cuts and it also affects the drinking water supply.

"The people have no source of water in Kandi, and therefore, the Govt should come out with a policy to frame a policy to ensure 24/7 drinking water to the people in Kandi villages," he said while urging for long term policy to deal with the issue.

Meanwhile, S. Manjit Singh also visited the Madana village and met the family members of the victims who were wounded in the explosion of a mine-blast to know about the well-being of their injured kins.

He also visited the mine-blast victims in the hospital to query about their health. He spoke to the hospital administration to provide best treatment to the injured persons.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion includes Raman Thappa, Bachan Choudhary, Brij Mohan Dutta, Mohammed Shafi, Chano Ram, and others.

P.G. Department of English, GDC Udhampur Hosts Memorable Farewell Ceremony for Graduating Students

Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 29, 2024 - The Post-Graduate Department of English at Government Degree College (GDC) Udhampur hosted a memorable farewell ceremony for its graduating post-graduate students on May 29, 2024. The event was a joyous occasion filled with reflections on the students' academic journeys, expressions of gratitude, and celebrations of their remarkable achievements.

The ceremony was graced by the esteemed Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, who addressed the gathering with words of wisdom and encouragement, urging them to continue their quest for knowledge and excellence. "Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in your lives. Remember, the education you have received here is the foundation for your future success. Keep striving, keep learning, and keep making us proud,"



Dr. Gupta remarked.

Prof. B.L. Thakur, HOD, Department of Education, in his inspirational address, emphasized the importance of continuous learning and the value of education. "In education, there are always commas. You have to learn continuously. The education that you have received here will help you perform in your job and life. In my opinion, rich is one who is well educated. You will get recognition when you are well-informed and well-sensitized. The students who have done their post-graduation from this college should not feel that they have missed out by not studying at a

university. Prof. Thakur stated, quoting, "Manzil se aagebadhkar manzil talaashkar, mil jaayatum-kodariyatohsamundarta-laashkar," encouraging students to always aim higher.

The Head of the Department, Dr. Sonia Khajuria, delivered a heartfelt speech commending the graduates for their perseverance, dedication, and outstanding accomplishments. "Today, we celebrate not only your achievements but also the spirit of perseverance and determination that brought you here," Dr. Khajuria remarked. She highlighted the significant milestones the students have reached

during their time at the institution and extended gratitude to the juniors for meticulously organizing the farewell. "Wherever you go, always remember that your college's pride is on your shoulders. The respect you gain in society reflects what you have taken from your institution. The confidence you have attained from this college will help you survive in the real world. Wish you all the best, and may you keep this bond alive," she added.

The event also featured heartfelt performances by both juniors and seniors, including dance, singing, and mimicry, which included faculty members who

were given fancy titles as part of the fun. Mr. Farewell and Miss Farewell titles were awarded to Nikhil and Priya, respectively. The event was anchored by Miss Piyush, who skillfully managed the proceedings.

The faculty members, including Prof. Tania Akhter, Dr. Meena Gupta, Prof. Vijender Singh, Prof. Vijay Kumar, Dr. Nikita Gandotra, Prof. Nitika Mahajan, Dr. Rupali Sharma, Dr. Diksha Gupta, Dr. HinaWali, and Dr. Faheem UIHaq, played active roles in the event and encouraged the students throughout.

Dr. Khajuria concluded by expressing her heartfelt gratitude to the faculty for providing invaluable guidance to the students, which has helped them stand confidently at this significant juncture in their lives.

The farewell ceremony was a true celebration of the students' hard work and achievements, leaving everyone with fond memories and a sense of pride in their association with GDC Udhampur.